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THE
- LIBERAL
HANDBOOK

1917

Aims and Achievements
 of
Saskatchewan Liberalism

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PROVINCIAL LIBERAL PLATFORM

Adopted by the Provincial Liberal Convention held at
Moose Jaw, March 28 and 29, 1917

With a view to the future development of the Province, the prosperity of its people and the building up of a sound and healthy citizenship, the Liberal party of Saskatchewan declared its approval of the following policies:

EDUCATION.

(a) The continued improvement of our educational system with the object of assuring to every child an efficient elementary education, special care being taken that by strict administration of the school law and regulations every child obtains a thorough knowledge of the English language.

(b) The creation of conditions that will have an ever increasing influence in improving the efficiency of all teachers, and in making the teaching profession more permanent.

(c) The adoption of such measures as may be necessary to insure that a larger proportion of our rural children will be enabled to secure in suitable schools nearer their home the advantages of a high school education which should be more closely related to our rural life.

RETURNED SOLDIERS.

The adoption of whatever measures are necessary to enable our soldiers upon their return to Saskatchewan to once more take an independent place in our civil life. The resources of the province and the activities of every branch of the public service should be utilised to bring about this end as rapidly as possible.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

(a) An extension of the activities of the Public Health Bureau and the Municipal Department with a view to further relieving the conditions that prevail in our more distant and sparsely settled communities respecting medical attendance, hospital accommodation and nursing.

(b) The adoption of a plan whereby the health of all school children will be kept constantly under review by the teachers who should be trained for this purpose—the plan to be such as to secure the sympathetic co-operation of all parents, physicians and teachers.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN

The enactment of such laws and such amendments to existing laws as will provide adequately for:

(a) The health and comfort of all girls and women employed in offices, stores, warehouses and factories;

(b) Regulating the hours of employment and for the fixing of a minimum wage for all such employees.

MOTHERS' PENSIONS

The inauguration of a system of pensions for mothers who for any cause are left without sufficient means to support and educate their children.

LAND SETTLEMENT.

Owing to the continued failure of the Federal immigration policy to secure appreciable results in the settlement of our vacant lands other than homesteads, we believe the time has arrived when the province should inaugurate a vigorous land settlement scheme with the object of placing experienced farmers with families on vacant lands now owned by speculators. For this purpose the Government should obtain an inventory of all such lands, indicating their location, ownership, character, value and other necessary information. To provide for the settlement of these lands the province should from time to time purchase them as required for actual settlement purposes, and, with the necessary safeguards, resell the lands so purchased to *bona fide* settlers on long term payments at a low rate of interest.

FARM MACHINERY.

As the present high price of farm machinery is a large factor in the cost of production, and as the price to the Saskatchewan farmer is higher than in many other countries for similar machinery, we believe that steps should be taken by the Provincial Government to inquire into this problem in order that knowledge may be obtained of the different factors which constitute the price and the means, if any, whereby reduction may be effected. This inquiry should embrace a study of cost of manufacture, the effect of the tariff, the cost of transportation, distribution, and collection and all other matters which enter into the question.

BRANCH RAILWAYS.

The construction of branch railways through all settlements urgently in need of transportation facilities. While realising that the war has unavoidably delayed the building of branch lines, still the solution of this problem is so vital to thousands of our farming population that we believe if the railways required cannot be secured when peace is declared by the aid of bond guarantees, or other assistance, the Province itself should undertake the construction of these lines.

ROADS.

A continuation of the policy of provincial assistance in the construction of main roads leading to market towns, the programme of work to be submitted to local councils for approval and the work itself to be undertaken by municipalities in all cases where they have the necessary organisation and equipment to do the work efficiently and economically.

TELEPHONE SERVICE.

(a) The early extension of the provincial telephone system to all urban communities, thereby encouraging the more rapid development of rural systems and at the same time increasing the usefulness of the entire telephone system to all subscribers.

(b) A further expansion of the educational work recently inaugurated by the Telephone Department to assist local companies to maintain and operate their rural systems at the lowest cost and with the greatest degree of efficiency.

LIVE STOCK AND DAIRYING.

(a) We approve of the action of the Saskatchewan Government in appointing a Commission to inquire into the various problems relating to the marketing of live stock and meat products. Means should be provided with the financial assistance of the Government, if necessary, to secure greater returns for the producer through improved shipping, marketing and storing facilities.

(b) Further development of the dairying industry by encouraging the establishment of additional creameries, particularly in outlying settlements that are suitable for the purpose, by aiding a larger number of farmers to increase their dairy herds, and by assisting all creameries to operate their plants and market their products at the lowest possible cost.

ELECTION LAWS.

We believe that every effort should be made, by legislation and by the enforcement of strict party discipline, to stamp out everything of a corrupt nature in connection with the public life of the province. With this end in view we believe that, among other reforms, provisions should be made for curtailing the expenses of elections and for requiring the fullest possible publicity respecting the source and amount of all contributions for organisation and election purposes.

We believe further that our laws respecting protested elections should be so amended as to provide for speedy trials and that all such trials should be proceeded with regardless as to whether or not any candidate concerned admits irregularities or offences.

(See special pamphlet containing comments *re* each plank in above platform.)

SASKATCHEWAN'S "BILL OF RIGHTS"

Unanimously indorsed by the Liberals of Saskatchewan in convention at Moose Jaw, March 28 and 29, 1917

Believing that the future prosperity of the people of Saskatchewan and the further development of their provincial facilities and institutions depends very largely upon action by the Parliament of Canada, the Convention of Saskatchewan Liberals pledged adherence to the following policies, which, in their opinion, are essential to the achievement of these aims:

Tariff and Markets—Free access for the grain products of Saskatchewan to the markets of the United States and of all other countries, willing to grant such free entry.

The admission into Canada, free of customs duties, of farm machinery and all things essential to the raising of grain and live stock products.

A general lowering of the customs duties on all necessities of life.

The immediate reduction of the customs duties on all goods imported from Great Britain to one-half of the rates charged under the general tariff, and a policy of further gradual reduction with a view to the elimination of all trade restrictions within the Empire.

New outlets for our farm products and especially a speedy completion of the Hudson Bay Railway owned and operated by the Government of Canada, and that provision be made for the operation of suitable steamers to be run between the Bay and Great Britain.

Natural Resources—The transfer to the Province of the public domain and natural resources within its borders, with a view to the control and development of the same for the benefit of the Province and its people.

School Lands—The transfer to the Province of all school lands and of the school endowment fund which up to the present under Federal control have produced scarcely more than one-half of the revenue for school purposes that could easily be obtained under Provincial management.

Banking Facilities—Such changes in the banking system of Canada as will permit of the establishment of local agricultural banks in close touch with local conditions and with the needs of the farming industry.

C.P.R. Tax Exemption—The removal of the exemption from taxation now enjoyed by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

Prohibition of Liquor Traffic—The enactment of legislation prohibiting the manufacture in, or (except for medicinal, scientific and sacramental purposes) importation into, Saskatchewan of intoxicating liquor, and respectfully request the Parliament of Canada forthwith to enact such legislation.

Women's Franchise—The extension of the Federal franchise to the women of Saskatchewan.

(See special pamphlet containing comments *re* above)

INTRODUCTORY

FOR close upon twelve years the Liberal party has been entrusted by the people of Saskatchewan with the duties and responsibilities of Government. Following the creation of the Province in September, 1905, Hon. Walter Scott formed the first Administration, and in the first Provincial general election in that year his Government was overwhelmingly endorsed by the people, the representation in the Legislative Assembly being, Liberals, 16; Conservatives, 9. In 1908 the Scott Government was again sustained by a splendid expression of the confidence of the people, 27 Liberal members being elected to 14 Conservatives. For a third time Hon. Walter Scott appealed to the people in 1912, and after seven years of administration received an overwhelming endorsement and expression of the confidence of the electorate in Liberal administration and policy, 46 supporters of the Government being elected out of a total membership of 64 in the Legislature.

The reason for this ever-increasing confidence in the Saskatchewan Liberal Government is not far to seek. The Government had set itself the task of giving Saskatchewan sound, progressive, businesslike administration. It was essentially a People's Government. Its aim, kept constantly in mind, was to evolve policies which would promote the happiness and welfare of the people and the development and prosperity of the Province. The Government's legislative programme from session to session always had these objects in view, and was designed to remove injustices and grievances where found to exist, and to inaugurate great progressive movements calculated to bring prosperity to the people and hasten the development of Saskatchewan as a great Province of Canada. And in its departmental administration the Government provided wise, honest and economical management of the people's affairs.

Never in the history of any province has a government and party had such a record of progressive achievement to present to the people as have the Liberals of Saskatchewan. It is a record positively unique. The needs of the Province have been carefully studied and policies evolved to meet those needs as they were shown to exist, regardless of past precedent, or any preconceived notions or ideas that what had served in other provinces and countries would do in Saskatchewan. The Government displayed great initiative and did not fear to blaze new trails in this new Province. As a result, Saskatchewan today is looked upon throughout the Dominion, and in other countries, as the pioneer in great advance policies and movements for the welfare of the masses of the people. The Government has consistently invited the co-operation of all the people in the work of government, and has endeavoured throughout its whole term of office to provide government of the people, by the people, for the people. Co-operation has been its watchword, and the keystone of the arch of government as built up by Liberalism in this Province.

The object of this Handbook is to present in condensed form, past, present, and future policies of Saskatchewan Liberalism, and the principles underlying those policies, together with some slight outlines of what has been accomplished by their application during the past

twelve years by the Government under the leadership of Hon. Walter Scott and Hon. W. M. Martin. This record of achievement constitutes a guarantee of what Liberalism will do for the Province in the years to come.

The time has now arrived when the people are once again afforded the opportunity of passing judgment upon the Government. Once again the Liberal party and Government appeals to the electors of the Province for their endorsement, and they ask that the electors carefully study the record, fully confident that an impartial investigation and study will lead to a renewal of the confidence bestowed in 1905 and re-bestowed in 1908 and 1912.

At this time the electors will undoubtedly be appealed to with the old, hackneyed, parrot-like cry, "It's time for a change," and they will be told that the Liberal party has been in office too long. In reply the Liberals merely say: "Examine the record of the past twelve years!" Contrast the Saskatchewan of 1905 with the Saskatchewan of 1917. Study the record to ascertain where the Liberal Government and the Conservative Opposition have stood during these years on the great issues affecting the prosperity and development of the Province. Note which party has stood for Saskatchewan first, last and all the time, and which party has supported policies which had their inception elsewhere than in Saskatchewan, and which were made to tune with the dictates of Ottawa.

Appeals to sentiment, racial appeals, appeals to a so-called brand of loyalty and patriotism will be made, and charges and insinuations of corruption widely circulated, in the effort to overthrow Saskatchewan Liberalism. This is the style of campaign already inaugurated. Little or no attempt is made to challenge the Government's record of progressive and constructive legislation and administration. The Opposition campaign is being based almost entirely on appeals which have little or nothing to do with the real work of government, but which are solely designed to sway the passions and sentiment of people during an election campaign, just as the so-called loyalty cry was used against the Liberals in the Reciprocity campaign of 1911.

In coming to a conclusion how they will mark their ballots in the approaching election, all true citizens having the interests of Saskatchewan at heart will duly weigh the respective party records, policies, and the nature of their appeals, in the scales of their judgment. The Liberals do not wish to sway the electors by passing appeals to passion or sentiment. Such appeals are cheap and unworthy and undeserving of attention by intelligent men and women. Electors should exercise their franchise on a much higher and more enlightened plane, namely, solid, substantial facts in relation to the life and public affairs of their province. This Handbook is issued as a small compendium of such information, and to it the attention of the electors is directed, and their study invited in the hope and belief that it will prove of value and assistance in arriving at a sane and proper appreciation of the fact that the Saskatchewan Liberal Government and party is worthy of their continued confidence and support.

THE GOVERNMENT'S CONSTRUCTIVE COMMISSIONS

A large measure of the success which has attended the policies put into effect by the Liberal Government of Saskatchewan during its term of office can be credited to the fact that before attempting to legislate on any subject of outstanding importance the Government went to great pains to ascertain all the conditions and facts surrounding it, and to obtain the views of the people most directly concerned in any legislation that might be introduced. Instead of hastily jumping at conclusions and embarking on a given policy without duly considering where it might lead,—as some provincial governments have done with disastrous results to themselves and their people,—the Saskatchewan Liberal Government, while not wasting time, made haste slowly until they knew they were right; then they forged ahead with commendable rapidity.

In other words, the Saskatchewan Liberal party in office has followed sound business methods and has applied the principles of Direct Legislation to the art of government and administration.

Many of the most important measures passed by the Government have, to all intents and purposes, and in regard to many of their details, been initiated by the people themselves, while in other cases the actual passage of certain measures has been delayed until the Bills were considered and passed upon by representative gatherings, such as the Grain Growers' Association and the municipal conventions.

The method employed by the Government in ascertaining the views of the people has been that of Royal Commissions, that is, constructive Commissions of inquiry into conditions in Saskatchewan and elsewhere, the study of the whole problem calling for legislative remedy, and a going direct to the people in order to learn their needs, opinions and views.

THE MUNICIPAL COMMISSION

When the Scott Government took office upon the creation of Saskatchewan as a Province in 1905, their first task was to build up the whole frame work of our Provincial Government and institutions. One of the big questions to be decided, and one which the whole future of the Province demanded should be decided wisely and well, was the form which the local municipal government of Saskatchewan should take.

So, on October 3, 1906, the Government appointed a Royal Commission to inquire into and report upon a suitable municipal system for Saskatchewan. This Commission was divided into two sections,—one urban, the other rural. Ex-Mayor J. W. Smith, of Regina, and ex-Mayor Andrew Whyte, of Moosomin, constituted the urban section, while P. Ferguson, H. H. Campkin and William Andrew, all prominently identified with rural municipal problems, constituted the rural section.

After more than nine months' study of this important question the Commission presented a report. Among the recommendations made was one favouring the appointment of an official of the Govern-

ment who should devote his whole time to municipal questions and work of municipal organisation. Out of this recommendation, which was acted upon by the Government, finally grew a separate department of the Provincial Government devoted exclusively to municipal affairs, Saskatchewan being one of the first provinces in Canada to take this important advance step, but one which has since been followed by many of the other and older provinces.

As a result of their study of the whole question of rural self-government, and after hearing the views of a large number of representative men in rural communities, the Commission recommended along broad lines the rural municipal system Saskatchewan enjoys today, and which has been found to be well designed to meet the needs of this new country.

But the care taken by the Government to avoid any mistake being made in establishing our rural system of government upon sound lines was further shown by its action, after the Commission had reported, in preparing a Bill and submitting it to the Assembly. After some discussion in that body it was laid over until the succeeding session and, in the meantime, copies of the Bill supplied to all the old Territorial Local Improvement Districts in order that the councillors might study its provisions and offer suggested amendments.

THE TELEPHONE INQUIRY

A second question of great public importance arose during the Government's first legislative term, namely, telephones. Manitoba had decided upon a government owned and operated system, and in Saskatchewan a demand arose for the Government to immediately follow its example. Mr. Scott and his colleagues, however, refused to be stampeded. They took the stand that before any policy was adopted that might involve the Province in expenditures amounting to millions of dollars, the most careful inquiry should be made into the whole problem with a view to arriving at the best possible system for this Province. Manitoba was a small province, and more compactly settled than Saskatchewan, and what might be feasible there or elsewhere might not be advisable in Saskatchewan, nor best designed to meet the needs of the public here.

The Government, therefore, secured the services of Mr. Francis Dagger, one of the leading telephone experts on the continent, and he set to work to make a thorough and exhaustive study of our conditions from a telephone point of view. In due course his report was presented to the Government, and then no time was lost in framing a policy which is now generally admitted to be the one best calculated to meet the requirements of this Province for the cheapest possible telephonic service consistent with efficiency and the rapid extension of such service to all sections of Saskatchewan, both urban and rural. That the policy is proving successful in these respects is borne out by the fact that today Saskatchewan has a larger mileage of rural telephone lines and more farmer subscribers than any other Western province. Furthermore, in Alberta, which copied the Manitoba system, both Government and Opposition are united in favour of the application of the Saskatchewan policy as a means of further expediting rural telephone construction in that Province.

(See page 54 for full statistics.)

THE ELEVATOR COMMISSION

The next problem which led the Scott Government to appoint a Commission with a constructive mission before it was that of interior

elevators. The elevator monopoly had for years been the biggest and most vexatious of the grievances under which our farmers laboured. Finally, goaded to desperation by exactions and downright robbery on the part of the big line elevator companies, the organised farmers of the three Prairie Provinces called upon their respective governments to go into the elevator business, build and operate a system of elevators, and thus smash the monopoly and give relief and fair play to the farmer in the marketing of his chief product. Many conferences between the farmers' representatives and the three provincial Premiers were held, but seemingly insurmountable difficulties in the way of successfully operating a government system of elevators presented themselves.

Finally, however, the Conservative Government of Manitoba, under Premier Roblin, decided to do as requested by the farmers, and without further thought or inquiry plunged into a government owned and operated system. Immediately the Conservative party in Saskatchewan launched a strong attack on the Scott Government, because it did not do likewise. True to its past record, however, the Saskatchewan Liberal Government refused to be stampeded. It admitted the importance of the problem, agreed that some action was necessary, but decided that before assuming the responsibility of committing the Province to an expenditure involving unknown millions of dollars, the fullest possible and most reliable information should be obtained in order to guide the Legislature and Government aright in any course of action that might be decided upon.

Therefore, on the 28th February, 1910, the Saskatchewan Elevator Commission was appointed, a body whose work has brought world-wide renown to this Province, and whose report on the subject of the initial marketing and handling of grain products has been regarded as an authoritative text book on the subject, and one that outlined a sane and practical solution of the big elevator problem in this Province. On the other hand, the Manitoba government owned and operated system ended in disaster, and finally had to be discarded after heavy financial loss to the province, and the elevators turned over to the farmers for management on a rental basis. With the experience of both Manitoba and Saskatchewan to guide it, Alberta unhesitatingly adopted the Saskatchewan method when that province came to deal with the problem later.

True to its policy of choosing men to serve on these constructive commissions who are in full sympathy with the farmers and desirous of advancing their interests, the Government selected as Commissioners, Dr. Robert Magill, professor of political economy in Dalhousie University; George Langley, M.L.A., and a member of the executive of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, and Fred W. Green, secretary of that association. The inquiry conducted by these men was of a most thorough and painstaking character, and as a result the Commission unanimously recommended against a Government owned and operated system, and in favour of the creation of a great co-operative company of farmers, backed financially by the Provincial Government, to construct, own, operate and fully and completely manage a system of elevators.

The Government accepted the recommendation. The suggested scheme was also submitted to the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' convention of 1911, and approved by it, and the Government proceeded, in the face of the most bitter opposition on the part of the Conservative party, to at once incorporate the Saskatchewan Co-operative

Elevator Co., Ltd., making the executive of the Grain Growers' Association the provisional directors. The history and success of this big farmers' company, which is now one of the largest grain handling concerns in the world, it is unnecessary to record in these pages, as it is known to all the people of Saskatchewan. Sufficient it is to say that in the six years the company has been in operation its growth and success have been nothing short of phenomenal, a fact which is abundantly proven by the following statistics:

	1911-12	1915-16
Number of locals	46	260
Number of shareholders.....	2,563	18,077
Number of elevators.....	46	230
Capital Stock—Subscribed	\$1,177,200	\$2,358,900
Capital Stock—Paid up	176,580	876,000
Grain handled through elevators.....	3,262,000 bu.	89,089,000 bu.

The company will in 1917 operate 300 elevators, and is now building its own terminal elevator at the head of the Great Lakes, which will be ready to handle the crop of 1917 and will have an initial capacity of 2,500,000 bushels, and is so designed as to be capable of further extension.

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT COMMISSION

This Commission was appointed January 25, 1918, and was instructed to inquire into ways and means for establishing Agricultural Credit, or "cheap Money for Farmers," as it was commonly referred to. The Commission consisted of J. H. Haslam, of Regina, chairman; Charles A. Dunning, general manager of the Co-operative Elevator Co., and Prof. E. H. Oliver, of the University of Saskatchewan. In addition to conducting their inquiry in Canada and the United States, the Commission journeyed to Europe with the American Commission to investigate European agricultural co-operation, the Saskatchewan Commission being admitted as members of the American Commission for this purpose. The investigation covered the agricultural credit and co-operative banking systems of Germany, France, Italy, Denmark and other countries, as well as a study of agricultural credit schemes throughout the world.

At the 1917 session of the Legislature the Government inaugurated a scheme of direct loans by the Government to farmers, an outline of which will be found elsewhere in this handbook. (See page 48.)

GRAIN MARKETS COMMISSION

Appointed at the same time as the Agricultural Credits Commission, and consisting for the most part of the same men,—the only difference being the substitution of Hon. George Langley for Prof. E. H. Oliver,—the Grain Markets Commission studied the whole grain problem in Europe, as well as on this continent. The specific instruction to this Commission was "to examine into ways and means for "bettering the position of Saskatchewan grain on the European markets." In order to arrive at a proper conclusion the Commission found it advisable and necessary to trace Saskatchewan grain from the point of the initial cost of its production on the farm to its final disposal in the markets of England, Holland, Germany and elsewhere. The report of this Commission, therefore, is a most illuminating and instructive volume.

The report, which is one that has received world-wide attention, makes it quite clear that such action as is necessary to relieve the

western grain grower from the disabilities under which he now labours in the production and marketing of his chief product must come very largely from the Dominion Government, as it is in connection with matters solely within Federal jurisdiction that action must be taken to afford relief. The report contains the necessary authoritative information indicating the nature of the problem and the remedies which should be applied. It indicates the lines upon which both Dominion and Provincial Governments can act in endeavouring to reduce costs of production and transportation, and thus place the western wheat grower in a better position to successfully compete with the wheat producers of other countries where cheap labour prevails and geographical conditions are more favourable to economical transportation and marketing. The way is pointed out whereby the prosperity of the western farmer can be advanced and the prosperity and development of Canada as a whole, and of Western Canada in particular, thereby enhanced.

THE FARM IMPLEMENTS COMMISSION

The record and the programme of the Liberal party on the Farm Implement question will receive special study on the part of our farming community. We venture the assertion that this study will be found quite as interesting by the women as by the men of our farms. In no line of activity does the Liberal party stand to greater advantage. Whether one looks at the matter from the standpoint of the past, or of the future, it must be admitted that the Liberal party in Saskatchewan leads all others in dealing with this important subject. In the handling of this problem, the party has shown beyond all doubt that it is first and foremost the people's party, and subject in no manner to the influence of the large corporations.

The Government proceeded in a way which commended itself to all concerned. A Royal Commission of inquiry was created, composed of Judges Newlands and Lamont of the Supreme Court of Saskatchewan; Messrs. Motherwell and Turgeon, two members of the Saskatchewan Government, and Mr. Maharg, president of the Grain Growers' Association.

The commission went about its task diligently. Meetings were held at seventeen points throughout the Province, at which the farmers were invited and encouraged to attend before the commission, give their evidence and make known their views. Both the implement companies and the farmers were represented by counsel at these various sittings. It is of interest to note that Mr. W. M. Martin, now Premier of Saskatchewan, acted as counsel for the farming interests before the commission.

After studying the subject in all its phases for over one year, the commission reported its findings to the Government, pointing out the defects in the then existing law, and suggesting an entirely new basis of legal relationship between the farmers and the implement companies, destined, in their opinion, to make these relations fair and equitable. These suggestions were adopted by the Government, the necessary legislation embodying them was prepared and submitted to the Legislature, where they received unanimous approval, and on June 24, 1915, the new law covering this most important subject came into effect.

(For more detailed information consult pamphlet "The Liberal Party and Farm Implements.")

LIVE STOCK COMMISSION

As is well known, the Provincial Liberal Government has been most active as regards the live stock branch of our agricultural activities. One of the principal aims of the Government has been to foster the live stock industry and to promote the marketing of live stock products.

Realising the importance of this question, and to meet the wishes of the live stock farmers, the Government some time ago appointed a Royal Commission to investigate all matters surrounding the live stock industry of Saskatchewan.

A great mass of valuable information has been obtained by the Commission and early this year they issued an interim report covering their investigation of a part of the subjects submitted to them for inquiry. In this interim report certain phases of our live stock growers' difficulties are dealt with and various recommendations are made with a view to overcoming the difficulties and complaints adduced in evidence before the Commission. The report has been made public so its contents need not be dealt with fully in this article. The following, however, is a summary of the recommendations made:

That the Provincial Government arrange to provide long term loans to farmers, repayable on the amortisation plan, fifty per cent. of such loans to be used in providing or improving live stock on the farm, also that the banks should amend their system as much as necessary in order to accommodate the live stock grower, as well as the merchant, and that the Canadian Bank Act be amended in order to reduce the cost and simplify the operation of taking security for money loaned on live stock.

That Dominion legislation be provided to control the live stock business as has been done with the grain trade in the passing of the Canada Grain Act, and the appointment of the Board of Grain Commissioners. This would mean regulation and control of live stock exchanges, commission charges, insurance fees, classification of stock, as well as public and private abattoirs and stock yards, with all other matters affecting the live stock industry.

That car cleaning charges should be eliminated; that purely stock trains should be run in certain districts; that better shelter should be provided at local stock yards; that discourteous railway employees should be punished and deserving employees rewarded. They recommend that the Canadian Northern Express live stock contract should be cancelled, and all express companies compelled to use a uniform contract making them liable for safe delivery of live stock.

That the meat inspection branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture should obtain and publish statistics of the loss from condemnation of bruises and the various diseases, so that losses from each cause might be traced to its origin; that buying "fed and watered" be adopted generally and "off cars" discontinued; that producers should be furnished with information as to the market classification of the different kinds of live stock.

That the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture provide an organisation to promote co-operative live stock marketing and give publicity to daily sales.

That pure bred sires of the right type should be more generally used by our farmers.

That a complete survey of the Province be made to ascertain and compile reliable detailed information on the various districts,

and their suitability for grazing and grain growing purposes respectively, with a view to formulating some scheme that would encourage the production of live stock by a fuller utilisation of the natural grasses and without militating against other interests of agriculture.

Another important recommendation deals with the loss arising from the shipment and sale of grain screenings from Western Canada, and calls for an investigation by the Dominion government with a view to making possible some intelligent utilisation of such portions of this valuable by-product as can be profitably used in the feeding of live stock.

Since the interim report was issued the Commission has made a careful study of stock markets and marketing methods in the United States. When their labours are completed and a full and final report is made, it will doubtless be found possible to enact legislation solving many of the intricate live stock problems with which our farmers are today confronted.

SOUTH CAROLINA LIQUOR DISPENSARY COMMISSION

The value of the work of this commission, which was so greatly ridiculed by the Conservative Opposition and press, is in part shown by the fact that not one charge of political favouritism or any criticism of the management of the Saskatchewan Liquor Stores system was made throughout the year and a half it was in existence; on the contrary, temperance reformers, and even Opposition papers, were outspoken in their praise of the manner in which the stores had been managed and the whole system conducted.

OTHER INQUIRIES HELD

Included among other inquiries of a constructive nature conducted by the Provincial Government was that into the question of "the practicability of producing power at coal centres and distributing it "throughout the Province," made by R. O. Wynne-Roberts, M.Inst. C.E., another important inquiry was made into the question of the feasibility of diverting water from the Saskatchewan river for domestic and industrial purposes throughout central and southern Saskatchewan, a report on this latter subject being made by the Saskatchewan Water Commission, of which Hon. Senator J. H. Ross and A. J. McPherson, C.E., are members. As a result of both these Commissions much valuable data has been obtained, which will prove helpful in the ultimate development of our resources.

THE ROYAL COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY

The events of the session of the Saskatchewan Legislature of 1916 are still fresh in everybody's mind. On February 10th, 1916, the Opposition brought down certain charges of the gravest character, very vague, and very wide in scope; no names being mentioned and no particulars given. The Tory press all over Canada immediately raised the hue and cry against the Saskatchewan Government; it was stated time and time again in the most flamboyant style and language that the Government was corrupt and dishonest and doomed to destruction. It is particularly interesting to note with what persistency Tory speakers and writers in advance of the facts being known, compared the situation in Saskatchewan with that which had been found to exist in Manitoba and the defunct Roblin administration.

In due course full inquiry was held, Royal Commissions were appointed, counsel for the Opposition were paid by the Government, and every facility was accorded for the production of evidence.

Two out of three of the Commissions in question have reported upon the facts submitted to them during an extended investigation. Their reports, while they find that individual wrong-doing did occur, (which wrong-doing has in every case received proper punishment at the hands of the Government) are in every other respect most gratifying to the Liberal party and our people. They constitute a full and complete exoneration of the Government and establish the integrity of every one of its members.

HISTORY OF CHARGES

1. In October, 1915, the Opposition discovered, by private information conveyed to them, that large sums of money had been stolen and were being stolen from the Saskatchewan Government, by an official of the Government through certain intermediaries. Mr. Gallon, Tory organiser, testified before the Wetmore Commission, that this knowledge was given to Mr. Willoughby, the Leader of the Opposition, in the early part of November, 1915.

2. The Opposition decided not to reveal their knowledge to the members of the Government, or to the police, or to take any action to prevent the frauds from continuing and to arrest the culprits; but they determined to wait and let matters continue until it would best suit their political interests to publish the facts which had come into their possession. (See Gallon's evidence as above.) This course was doubtless decided upon after consultation with Hon. Robt. Rogers.

3. The Opposition knew that the liquor interests of the Province, whose licenses had been destroyed by the Government's anti-liquor policy of 1915, were furious at the Government which had struck them and were desperately eager to injure it if possible. Consequently they approached Frank Brunner, an ex-hotelkeeper and the ex-Treasurer of the Licensed Victuallers Association. Brunner claimed to have evidence implicating certain private members of the Legislature in wrong-doing. But he refused to talk without compensation. The Conservative managers did not hesitate, but agreed to pay Brunner a salary of \$250 per month, his work being to gather evidence besides his own which might hurt the Liberal party in any manner, to produce that evidence when called upon, and otherwise to work in the interests of the Tory party. (See Brunner's evidence before Brown-Elwood Commission, also his evidence upon the various criminal trials arising out of these charges.)

4. The evidence furnished by Brunner and his associates involved certain private Liberal members of the Legislature in a charge of bribing, and also certain other Liberal members in charges of improper dealing with the liquor interests of a less serious character.

5. On February 10th, 1916, Mr. Bradshaw as spokesman for the Opposition, laid his charges in the Assembly. He charged that "certain Liberal Members" (without naming anybody) had been bribed by the liquor interests in 1913, that certain other parties (without naming them) had stolen \$50,000 from the treasury by means of fraudulent road contracts, etc. He asked for a Royal Commission of judges to investigate his charges. The Government immediately asked Mr. Bradshaw to name the Members and other persons he intended to charge, so that wrong-doers might be apprehended and an inquiry instituted. He refused. The Government then referred his charges to a Committee of the House. The members of the Opposition refused

so that the Government could be accused of having gotten them out of the way.

7. Finally Brunner, who had been placed under arrest for his refusal to give evidence before the Committee of the Legislature,—(although Mr. Bradshaw, a Member of the Assembly himself, and who had set Brunner the example for his contempt, was allowed his liberty)—consented to give his evidence. He appeared before the House Committee and named the members whom Bradshaw intended to accuse in his allegation of bribery. After hearing all the evidence Brunner had to give, the Committee being still unable to secure evidence from Bradshaw, requested that the matters involved be referred to a royal commission, as Bradshaw had promised to produce his evidence there.

8. Similar action was taken by the Committee appointed to inquire into the road frauds. The flight of Brown and Devline and the subsequent discoveries in the Highways Branch showed that frauds had been committed, but as Bradshaw and his associates remained obdurate and refused to furnish the information they held or to assist in any way in the inquiry, but insisted in the appointment of a royal commission, the Committee recommended that such a commission be appointed, which was done accordingly.

SASKATCHEWAN LIBERALISM AND TEMPERANCE REFORM

The record of the Liberal party and Government on the subject of temperance reform has been consistent and progressive from the day the Province was created in September, 1905. Hon. Walter Scott had long been known as a strong temperance advocate, and when he first formed his Government he laid down the principle and order that there must be no entangling alliance between the Liberal party of Saskatchewan and the liquor interests such as had existed between both political parties and those interests in the older provinces of Canada. Furthermore, right from the outset he started to work out his temperance reform policy, which under his administration reached its consummation in the abolition of the bars and the annihilation of the organized liquor traffic in this Province on July 1, 1915. Thus in ten years Mr. Scott and the Saskatchewan Liberal party achieved what other governments had failed to accomplish in half a century.

and, strengthened, stringent provisions being inserted compelling a vast improvement in the interest of the travelling public in all hotels receiving licenses. Saskatchewan was the first province in Canada to take the advance step of instituting one central Board of Liquor License Commissioners for the whole Province. Other provinces later followed Saskatchewan's example in this respect. And just here it may be recorded that not once, between the establishment of the Board in 1907 and the passing out of existence of that Board with the abolition of all licenses in 1915, was the Board criticised by the Opposition in the Legislature for any neglect of duty, not one charge was ever laid against it of being influenced by political considerations, nor was it ever accused of any wrong-doing in its relations with the liquor interests. It commanded the respect and confidence of all classes, Conservatives as well as Liberals, liquor licensees and temperance organisations alike.

3. At the next session of the Legislature (1908) the old Territorial Liquor License Ordinance was replaced by an entirely new Act, stronger in every respect, and which limited the number of licenses that could be granted in any community, shortened the hours of sale, prohibited the sale of liquor on Christmas, Good Friday and Thanksgiving Day, and made provision for local option.

4. In 1909 the local option provisions of the Act were further strengthened from the temperance standpoint; a prohibition area was created extending for three-quarters of a mile around the boundaries of the lands of the University of Saskatchewan; license fees were largely increased; provision made that bartenders must be licensed; and generally increased restrictions placed upon the liquor traffic.

5. Once again, in the session of 1912-13, the Government stiffened up the conditions under which licenses were granted. The number of licenses which could be granted to a given population was further reduced; license fees were again substantially increased; the number of rooms which had to be provided in a licensed hotel for the accommodation of guests was increased; and, once again, the restrictions surrounding the traffic were made more stringent. The following figures indicate the remarkable change effected by the Government between 1905 and 1912-13 and give a clear idea of the consistent policy which was being followed:

Old Territorial law in force when Scott Government came into office.—Number of licenses permitted in cities, towns and villages respectively, no limit. Number of rooms which licensed hotels were obliged to provide for public accommodation: In cities, 20; in villages, 10. License fees: Hotel, \$200; wholesale, \$200. Hours of sale from 6 a.m. to 11.30 p.m.

Under Scott Government's First Amendments in 1907.—No change in direction of placing a limit on number of licenses. Number of rooms required: In cities and towns, 25; in villages, 15. License fees: Hotels in cities, \$400; in towns, \$300; in villages, \$250; wholesales, in cities, \$400; in other places, \$300.

1908-09: Hours reduced to 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. in towns, and 10.30 p.m. in cities, and 7 p.m. on Saturdays.

Under Scott's Final Amendments to License Law in 1913.—Number of licenses to be granted limited as follows: Hotels, in cities, towns and villages, one for 600 population or less; two where population exceeded 600, but did not exceed 1,200; three between 1,200 and 2,500 population; four between 2,500 and 4,000; and one for each 2,000 additional population. Wholesales: none in any city or town with

less than 2,000 population; one for the first 2,000 population; two for the first 4,500; three for the first 7,000; four for the first 15,000; five for the first 30,000; six for the first 40,000; seven for the first 50,000; and one for each additional 15,000 population over 50,000. Number of rooms required: In cities, 60; in towns, 85; in villages, 25. License fees: Hotels, in cities, \$500; in towns, \$400; in villages, \$300; wholesale, in cities, \$1,200; in other places, \$800.

SPLENDID RECORD

The above record shows the steady progress of the Liberal Government's policy in the direction of strict control and restriction of the liquor traffic taken in consecutive steps, all consistently leading to one end and one result.

BANISH THE BAR

In 1918 there arose the demand on the part of the Banish the Bar Committee of One Hundred, representing the temperance people of the Province for a referendum vote on the question of the abolition of all bar licenses. The Committee did not ask for any action in regard to the wholesale shops. The Government was agreeable to the granting of a referendum, and that it should be effective on a bare majority vote, but it held that a minimum vote favourable to Banish the Bar of 50,000 should be required in order to provide the Government—which would be held responsible for the strict and successful enforcement of the law—with a reasonable guarantee of a strong body of public opinion back of it. The Banish the Bar Committee objected to this minimum as too high and asked for a minimum of 30,000, while the organised liquor forces contended that 50,000 was too low and demanded at least 60,000. When Premier Scott informed the Banish the Bar Committee that the Government could not agree to a smaller minimum favourable vote than 50,000, the Committee said they would decline to conduct a referendum contest under such a minimum, and the Bill then before the Legislature providing for the taking of the referendum was withdrawn.

In August, 1914, the great war broke out, and the necessity for strict economy and the conservation of all our national powers and resources became strongly evident. Thereupon the Banish the Bar Committee again approached the Government, and at their convention, held at Regina on December 9, 1914, it was decided to make three requests of the Government. These were submitted to the Government by letter under date of December 31, 1914, and were as follows:

1. That the Government refuse to grant any new licenses during the continuance of the war.
2. That the hours of sale be shortened, making the opening hour 8 a.m. and the closing hour 6 p.m.
3. That the Government provide for a referendum on Banish the Bar, to be held at the municipal elections in December, 1915, with a straight majority vote without any minimum requirement.

Replying early in January, 1915, Premier Scott agreed to request No. 1, and in regard to the other two expressed the opinion that no action should be taken that was calculated to have a further disturbing effect on the general unsettled business conditions, created in the early months of the war, during the winter months.

Then on March 18, 1915, with the winter drawing to a close, Mr. Scott made his famous Oxbow speech, announcing a shortening of the hours of sale as from April 1, 1915; the abolition of all licenses,

wholesale and club as well as bar, as from July 1, 1915, and the temporary establishment of Government owned, managed and controlled liquor stores in lieu of the wholesale shops, action in regard to which was not included in the Committee of One Hundred's request. The question of the closing of these Government stores, or the opening of new ones, to be subject to local referendum votes, and the fate of the whole system to be decided by a Provincial referendum to be held in 1919. The question of a reversion to the old system of licensed bars to be decided by a referendum after the war. The Legislature met early in May and gave legislative effect to this policy.

Thus the Banish the Bar Committee got everything, and more than it had asked for, and got it on July 1, 1915, instead of in December, 1915, and got it without being compelled to go to the expense and labour of a referendum.

BENEFICIAL RESULTS—STORES CLOSED

So beneficial were the results attending the closing of the bars, and the restricting of the wholesale trade through Government management, that public opinion was solidified in favour of the most advanced temperance reform measures. Consequently, at the 1916 session of the Legislature, the Government deemed that the people were ready to go still farther and abolish the residue of the traffic represented by the Government stores, and the Government therefore made provision for the taking of the Provincial referendum on the question of the continuance or abolition of these stores in December of that year, instead of waiting until December, 1919, as originally provided. The vote was accordingly taken in December, 1916, and resulted overwhelmingly in favour of closing the stores, and in three weeks' time the stores were all closed by the Government, although it had six months under the terms of the Act in which to give effect to the will of the people. It is worthy of note that after this referendum there were no private liquor interests in the Province to take part in the contest, they having disappeared on account of the Government's measure of 1915.

1917 TEMPERANCE ACT

At the 1917 session the new Saskatchewan Temperance Act was passed. This is the most stringent prohibition law on the statute books of any Canadian Province. All sale of liquor is prohibited and all commission houses, either for the taking of orders for liquor to be shipped into Saskatchewan from other provinces, or for the shipment of liquor from Saskatchewan to other provinces, are outlawed. Breweries in Saskatchewan are alone permitted to manufacture and ship liquor out of the Province, and these operate under Dominion Government licenses, over which the Provincial Government has no jurisdiction.

SASKATCHEWAN LED THE WAY

By its action in banishing the bars at one stroke in 1915 the Liberal Government of Saskatchewan set the pace for all Canada. Alberta, Manitoba and British Columbia followed with the adoption of Provincial prohibition by vote of their people, then Ontario, without taking a vote, also Nova Scotia and New Brunswick without taking votes, until today eight out of the nine provinces of Canada are "dry" by provincial enactment, and as "dry," as it has been clearly established, as the Provincial Legislatures have power to make them, the Imperial Privy Council having decided that the provinces have no control over importation.

ON TO OTTAWA

The Liberal party of Saskatchewan will not be satisfied, however, so long as liquor is allowed to be imported into the Province, and at the big Provincial Liberal convention held at Moose Jaw on March 28-29 last, the party unanimously adopted a resolution calling on the Dominion Government and Parliament to put an end to the importation of intoxicating liquor into prohibition provinces. This resolution declares in favour of:

"The enactment of legislation prohibiting the manufacture in, or (except for medicinal, scientific and sacramental purposes) importation into, Saskatchewan of intoxicating liquor, and respectfully request the Parliament of Canada forthwith to enact such legislation."

(N.B.—Consult pamphlet entitled "Willoughby's Wobblings" for the Conservative record on the temperance question in Saskatchewan.)

EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS AND REFORM

MARKED PROGRESS ALL ALONG THE LINE

GENERAL

The proper and efficient education of the children and young men and women of Saskatchewan is a matter that deeply concerns every elector. If our future citizenship is to be what it should, it is essential that those in authority should see to it that the necessary educational facilities are provided to equip our future generations for the battle of life's work.

From the very earliest days in the settlement of Saskatchewan the importance of education was recognized and provision was made for the establishment and assistance of elementary schools. During the years from 1880 to 1905, when the Province was formed, the foundations of our present elementary school system were laid mainly under the leadership of Hon. Mr. Haultain, who was Premier during the Territorial regime.

When the Liberal administration came into office in September, 1905, with Hon. Walter Scott as Premier, there existed in Saskatchewan 894 school districts. In our larger towns and cities we had no High Schools nor Collegiates, and as yet no provision had been made for a University or an Agricultural College. A Normal class had been established at Regina, and in other ways an effort was made to provide for the training of teachers. It will thus be seen that on the whole prior to the inauguration of the Province the efforts of the Government had been directed entirely towards providing an elementary education for the children of those pioneer days.

RUSH OF POPULATION

When the Province was formed in 1905 we had a population of about 250,000. Since then our growth has increased by leaps and bounds until now we have a population of about 650,000. People flocked to the West from all parts of the world—from Eastern Canada, the British Isles, United States, France, Austria, Germany, Russia, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, Galicia, etc., etc. The great majority of these people were attracted by our free lands. They had their health and strength, but little of this world's goods. They came to carve out homes for themselves in a new country. Thousands of them

were handicapped by having no knowledge of our conditions and little or no knowledge of our language or our institutions.

Taking these factors into consideration the marvel is that our elementary school system has spread throughout the length and breadth of the Province among all these various classes as rapidly as it has. Twelve years is a short time in the history of Saskatchewan, and when one considers that thousands upon thousands of these new comers brought with them their own ideas and ideals, as well as customs regarding all matters pertaining to the education of their children, the wonder is that they so readily and so freely approved and took advantage of the provisions of our elementary school law. The extent to which this was the case under the guidance and assistance of the Liberal Administration is shown by the statistics which indicate the rapidity with which school districts were established.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS ORGANIZED

As has been pointed out, the number of districts existing in Saskatchewan on September 1st, 1905, was 894. The number in existence on December 31st, 1916, was 8,878, showing an increase of almost 8,000 in a period of 11 years, or an average of 270 for each year since the Liberals took office.

No province in Canada and no State in the American Union can show such a record in the way of providing educational facilities for its people.

From the administration standpoint, taking into consideration all the various classes to be dealt with and their many preconceived notions as regards schools, the task was a huge one. It is not to be wondered that during this formative period the attention and energies of the Department of Education were very largely directed towards carrying out this important work.

SCHOOL GRANTS

The Government not only interested itself in a large way in the organisation of districts, but it provided the funds for rendering financial assistance to these districts notwithstanding the heavy burden created by the ever-increasing number of schools. The following figures will indicate what this has meant to the public treasury:

For the year 1906 the total grants paid to all districts amounted to \$251,200.50. This increased to \$350,807.95 in 1910, and to \$639,812.08 in 1915.

In addition to these grants, the Government provided a scheme for raising additional revenues through *The Supplementary Revenue Act*, the chief object of which at the time was to tax unoccupied lands outside of school districts in order that they might bear some share of the cost of education. Under this Act there has been raised in eight years and distributed to our rural schools no less than \$2,218,675.88.

SCHOOL INSPECTORS

All will agree that competent, thorough and frequent inspection of our schools is very desirable. In 1906 there were 8 inspectors employed, at a total cost for salaries and expenses of \$16,912.50. In 1910 we had 18 inspectors at a cost of \$30,260.41, while in 1915 we had 25 at a cost of \$77,771.62. The appropriation for inspectors for next year is \$112,000. From these figures it will be seen that the Government has endeavoured to keep pace with this phase of school work. While this is true, there can be no doubt there is room for improvement in this direction. A sufficient staff should be employed to enable every inspector to visit every school in his district not once or twice,

but if necessary several times during the year. It was for this reason that the Martin Government at the recent session of the Legislature decided to provide for 10 additional inspectors. These will be appointed as soon as possible, and all will be at work after the end of the present school term.

By the appointment of a much larger staff of inspectors, thereby giving them fewer schools to look after, it is expected the administration of our school law and regulations will be more rigidly enforced in all districts. It will be the duty of each inspector through close supervision and frequent visits to see that every district is in charge of a qualified teacher, that all books used are authorized, that all schools are taught in the English language, and that the provisions of the law respecting the attendance of children are enforced.

TEACHERS

Those who thoughtlessly criticise the Department of Education for not supplying a full staff of properly qualified teachers for all schools in the Province, have little or no conception of the difficulties in the way of securing this end. As a matter of sound policy the Government has always maintained that our schools should be manned by thoroughly trained teachers. There has been no desire upon the part of those in authority to place an unqualified teacher in charge of any school. Year after year the constant aim of the Department has been to secure the largest possible number of fully trained teachers.

There are many reasons why it was most difficult during the past seven or eight years to meet the demand for teachers. These may be briefly summarised as follows:

(a) Owing to rapid settlement and the ever increasing number of school districts our high schools, collegiates and normal schools could not meet the demand;

(b) The annual drain on the total teaching staff as a result of female teachers getting married is very large;

(c) During boom days hundreds of male teachers annually left the profession to take up other lines of work;

(d) Many teachers are annually forced out of the profession—both male and female—because they cannot secure permanent employment, a large number of our schools being open only for the summer months;

(e) Fully qualified teachers knowing the conditions prevailing always gravitated towards the older and best settled districts, where they naturally expected to get good accommodation;

(f) Great difficulty was experienced in inducing teachers to take schools in far-away settlements and in districts where the majority of the people were of foreign birth.

As a result of all these conditions the Department has been compelled, contrary to its wishes, to issue hundreds of permits each year to untrained teachers with little or no experience. Had this not been done scores upon scores of schools would never have opened. Notwithstanding the fact that special efforts were constantly being made to train teachers locally and to secure every possible teacher from the eastern provinces in Canada and Great Britain, there was annually a shortage of several hundreds of teachers, and trustees were at their wits' end to secure some one to take charge of the school. It was this condition of affairs existing mainly during our period of rapid expansion that has led some unthinking and unreasonable people to expect

the Department of Education to do the impossible. Taking all the facts into consideration, the Department is really to be congratulated on the results obtained.

SEPARATE SCHOOLS

The Saskatchewan Act, passed by the Parliament of Canada in 1905 to create the Province, provides for the organisation of separate school districts, either Protestant or Roman Catholic. This provision in our constitution continued a privilege that had been in force from the earliest Territorial days, and can now be taken away only by the British Parliament. Neither the Provincial Government nor the Ottawa Government has any power to alter our constitution so far as this privilege is concerned.

For several years it was thought by a good many people that this privilege would be taken advantage of to a great extent, thereby unnecessarily multiplying separate school districts to the disadvantage of our public schools. This, however, has not been the case, as is shown by the following statistics:

Total number of school districts in Saskatchewan on September 1st, 1905	894
Number of separate school districts in Saskatchewan on September 1st, 1905	9
Total number of school districts in Saskatchewan on September 1st, 1916	3,829
Number of separate school districts in Saskatchewan on September 1st, 1916	18

These figures show that in the 11 years from September 1st, 1905, to September 1st, 1916, the public school districts in the Province have increased from 894 to 3,829, while the separate districts have increased only from 9 to 18.

SCHOOL BOOKS

Since 1908 the Government has supplied school readers free of charge to every school in the Province. During the years this law has been in force, no less than 402,761 books have been so distributed at a cost of \$82,128.96, and at a saving of over \$55,000 to the people of the Province. By this action on the part of the Liberal administration the former sum has been saved to the parents of children who have been attending school.

From time to time complaint has been made regarding changes in other text books. In order to remove all cause for such complaint in future, the Martin Government has been carrying on negotiations with the governments of Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia with a view to adopting uniform texts in all four provinces. When this is accomplished, contracts for the supplying of books for a period of from five to ten years will be entered into, and it is expected all books commonly in use will be secured at greatly reduced prices. This whole problem is now receiving the earnest attention of Hon. Mr. Martin, Minister of Education, who believes that as a result of the arrangements to be made, many thousands of dollars will be saved annually by the parents of our school children.

ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

It is very desirable that every child in the Province should be enrolled in school and should attend regularly. In the past we have not succeeded in accomplishing all we might wish in this direction. To those who have studied pioneer conditions throughout Saskatchewan this is not to be wondered at. It must be remembered that in the

earlier days of settlement thousands of our people found it exceedingly difficult to clothe their children for school, purchase school books and supplies, and pay school taxes. Besides in numerous instances during what might be classed as the "home-making" days, parents found it necessary to keep some of the children away from school to help on the farm. Then, again, owing to sparse settlement, inclement weather, bad roads, and the distances children are required to travel to some schools it was to be expected in many instances that the attendance of children would not be as regular as is desirable.

Conditions, however, have been changing—our settlements are growing older—and our people generally are better able to give more attention to this important matter. The Government believes that the time has arrived when a distinct advance should be made in requiring the more regular attendance of children at our schools. With this end in view the law has recently been materially changed, and hereafter the Department of Education, through its attendance officers and inspectors will see to it that this important matter receives proper attention. Hereafter it is fully expected there will be a marked improvement in the attendance of children in all our schools.

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Our school law has always required that every school should be taught in the English language. English must be the medium of instruction. There can be no difference of opinion with regard to the necessity or desirability of this feature of the law being carried out. The common language of Saskatchewan is, and always will be, English. For this reason it is imperative that every child who leaves our schools should have a thorough knowledge of the English tongue. In order that this may be accomplished it is equally as important that every teacher employed in our schools should be capable of speaking and teaching English. Hon. Mr. Martin is thoroughly convinced of these essentials, and has pledged his word that the administration of his department will be carried on to secure these ends.

HIGH SCHOOLS AND COLLEGIATES

Saskatchewan has every reason to be proud of its High Schools and Collegiates. They are the equal of any that exist in Canada. When the Liberal Government took office in 1905, there was not a High School or Collegiate in the Province. Since the High School Act was passed in 1907 no less than 22 institutions of this class have been established. The value of buildings and their equipment provided by the municipalities in which they are located is estimated at no less than \$1,116,137. In the year 1915 these institutions employed 129 teachers, and there were enrolled 3,427 students. So far as rural students are concerned all these institutions were made free. No fees can be charged. In no province in Canada have such splendid opportunities been created for the higher education of our boys and girls.

To give some idea of the extent to which the Province as a whole has aided these institutions it need only be pointed out that the total grants paid to these from all sources in 8 years amounted to \$801,412.10.

UNIVERSITY AND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

The founding of the University of Saskatchewan, including the Agricultural College, by the Liberal Government will forever stand as a monument to its foresight and statesmanship. It has been established as a State institution, free from political control and interference. Recognising that our University would necessarily play

a large part in the life of our people and in the ultimate development and prosperity of the whole community, the Government has always endeavoured to provide the means whereby the University could fulfil its functions in a large way. With this object in view there has been expended on land, buildings, plant, equipment, barns, machinery and stock of all kinds no less a sum than \$1,800,000. In addition to this the Government provides annually for maintenance and operation, including salaries, running expenses, etc., a sum in the neighbourhood of \$180,000.

The growth of the institution so far as students are concerned is most gratifying. The number in attendance in the first year was 70. This grew to 445 before war broke out. In addition through special courses, travelling lecturers and extension work of various classes the influence and educational facilities of the institution are carried to about 130,000 of our people in all parts of the Province.

CONCLUSION

From a perusal of this general outline of our educational development during the twelve years of Liberal rule it will be seen that the Government has from time to time earnestly striven to provide the necessary facilities for the training of our children. Those who understand the situation best and who take into consideration the countless difficulties that have had to be contended with freely admit that the progress made during those few years is marvellous. Nobody contends that our educational system is perfect. It can be improved and will be improved in many directions. It was for this reason that the Government itself launched the movement for "Better Schools"—a movement that has aroused the interest of thousands of parents and that will continue to occupy the attention of every thoughtful citizen. This movement has already borne fruit, and the future is bound to witness many important changes in our school system. Quite recently the Martin Government decided to have a thorough survey made of educational conditions throughout the entire Province. For this purpose one of the leading experts on the continent has been employed, and the work will be undertaken without delay. At the next session of the Legislature it is expected a report will be available and that the Government will be enabled to introduce legislation that will have far reaching results in bettering the condition of all our educational institutions.

AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

PROGRESSIVE, INTELLIGENT, AND GENUINELY GOOD WORK

For progressive, intelligent, and genuinely good work, attended with splendid results in behalf of our farmers the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture has rightly been given great credit and praise.

Recognising the intimate relation that exists between the prosperity of our farmers and the well-being of the community as a whole (for the farmers' success means everybody's success) the Liberal party upon assuming office set about to frame and develop progressive agricultural policies so as to make, so far as it lay in their power, our rural population on the farms happy, contented, and prosperous. Unfortunately for the farmers, such matters as the tariff and markets are in the hands of the Conservative Government at Ottawa. But for the past 11 years the record of the Saskatchewan Government through

its Agricultural branch has been one of great activity in fostering and aiding agricultural pursuits in our Province.

Perhaps the chief reason why the Department of Agriculture has been so eminently successful is because it is administered by a Farmer for the Farmers. To supervise this important branch of the Government service the Government selected Hon. W. R. Motherwell, a well-known, and highly respected practical farmer, who has made a special study of farming in Western Canada for the past 35 years, and therefore possesses a remarkable store of knowledge and experience which are invaluable to his office. It has been often and truly said that there is no provincial Minister of Agriculture in Canada who is his peer. That he has had the best interests of the farmers completely at heart is simply stating what everybody knows to be the fact, proven by the very excellent work which his Department has done for the betterment of all our farmers and our agricultural interests generally. Incidentally it should be noted that no less than half of the Cabinet of the Martin Government are practical and skilled farmers.

In sharp contrast to Hon. Mr. Motherwell's appointment as Minister of Agriculture is the fact that under Conservative Governments at different times a lawyer, a doctor, and a brewer were selected to administer agricultural affairs. More total disinterestedness in farmers and their wants is scarcely conceivable.

AIDS TO AGRICULTURE

The following figures show at a glance the annual amounts expended by the Government for fostering and aiding agriculture and stock raising in their various forms. Though the work of the Department of Agriculture is very largely of an educational and administrative nature, it is rapidly forcing its way into the "spending department" column. The figures given below will give some idea of the importance attached by the Government to the necessity for spending large sums of money for the development of our agricultural resources:

1905	4 months	\$ 1,834.79
1906	14 "	103,448.19
1907	12 "	112,367.10
1908	12 "	195,830.99
1909	12 "	211,472.15
1910	12 "	240,669.80
1911	12 "	842,962.81
1912	12 "	438,759.18
1913	14 "	739,854.24
1914	12 "	282,228.65
1915	12 "	830,725.98
*1916	12 "	358,500.00
*1917	12 "	501,000.00

*Sums voted, including amounts for purchase and sale of live stock and live stock products, under administration of Agricultural Aids Act.

PRINCIPLES OF CO-OPERATION

When Saskatchewan was created a Province in 1905, organisation among the farmers for business purposes was practically unknown. Within the few years in which the Liberal party has been in power the Province has made wonderful progress along many lines, but in no direction has greater or more important development taken place than in the organisation of her agricultural industry along co-operative lines.

Saskatchewan is recognised as the leader among the provinces of Canada in the application of the principles of co-operation, and

is not surpassed in that respect by any state in the United States. This pre-eminent position has been attained in a few short years because of the active sympathy and support of the Liberal party in this Province. Whereas in the past, parties and governments have, as a rule, been found antagonistic to such movements, opposed them, and retarded their growth, the Liberal Government of Saskatchewan has not only given them every encouragement and financial assistance, but has actually taken the initiative in inaugurating the adoption of co-operative principles and methods in the business life of the Province.

CO-OPERATIVE ELEVATOR COMPANY, LTD.

The Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company, Ltd., today stands as a monument to the wisdom and judgment of the Saskatchewan Government, the Elevator Commission, and to the ability of Saskatchewan farmers in the management of their own business. Though at first despised and ridiculed by the Conservative party, the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company has grown and developed until today it enjoys the distinction of being the most efficient grain marketing system yet devised, and the largest initial grain handling concern in the world. Financially strong, it has found no difficulty in meeting its every obligation at maturity, and paid its 19,000 shareholders satisfactory returns, besides putting thousands of dollars into the pocket of every Saskatchewan farmer when marketing his grain crop.

The following table shows the growth of the enterprise and the development of its business since its inauguration in 1911:

Season	No. of Shareholders	No. of Elevators	Grain Handled through Elevators	Grain Handled on Commission
1911-12	2,597	46	3,262,000	.....
1912-13	8,963	137	12,899,030	12,761,686
1913-14	13,156	192	19,165,290	19,290,531
1914-15	14,742	210	18,761,653	13,642,807
1915-16	18,077	230	89,089,000	39,674,000
1916-17	19,000	258	* 28,000,000	* 23,000,000

*To April 1, 1917.

CO-OPERATIVE CREAMERIES

No other province of Canada has given more practical assistance to dairying than Saskatchewan. The Liberal party has always advocated that something should be done to assist and encourage farmers to take up dairying. To carry precept into practice the Dairy Branch of the Department of Agriculture was established early in 1906 and by generous Government assistance has built up a large and profitable business for our dairy farmers. The dairy output of the Province has improved in quality and increased greatly in quantity.

The following figures show the development of co-operative creamery institutions in Saskatchewan:

Year	No. of Creameries	No. of Patrons	Pounds of Butter Made
1907	4	213	66,246
1909	6	876	321,404
1910	7	1,166	507,820
1911	9	1,596	703,583
1918	11	2,681	962,869
1914	18	3,625	1,398,730
1915	15	5,979	2,012,410
1916	17	9,208	2,538,061

RECONSTRUCTION

Early in 1917 the Co-operative Creameries asked the Government to pass legislation providing for the organisation of a provincial company to consolidate and combine all co-operative creameries to better further their common objects. At the last session of the Legislature an Act was accordingly passed to incorporate the Saskatchewan Co-operative Creameries, Ltd. The new company will be organised largely along the lines of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company.

Their powers include the construction, acquisition, maintenance and operation of creameries, cheese factories and cold storage plants in the Province, and the buying and selling of dairy and poultry products and poultry.

The legislation also provides that the company may establish locals at any point in the Province, and it is expected that the newer districts will receive valuable aid in developing dairying and mixed farming.

Government assistance has been granted sufficient to ensure the success of the new company, and with it patrons and shareholders alike will be well satisfied. When the new scheme gets under way Saskatchewan will have one of the best organized and established agricultural industries in Canada, which will furnish proof of the diversified opportunities for successful farming in our Province.

LIVE STOCK BRANCH

The Live Stock Branch was organised to administer the several important Acts placed upon the statute books by the Government looking to the rapid and permanent development of the live stock industry in our Province.

The policy of the Government has been, and still is, to financially assist our farmers in fostering the live stock industry and promoting the marketing of live stock products. At the last session of the Legislature no less a sum than \$250,000 was provided for the purchase and sale of live stock to farmers under the Agricultural Aids Act. With the policy formulated by the Government, backed by such magnificent aid, the progress in the live stock industry must be considerably accelerated. It has been conservatively estimated that as much live stock will in future be sold *each year* by the Saskatchewan Government on credit terms to our farmers as has been sold in the past four years together.

The following work is done by the Department in dealing with the varied interests of live stock production and management in Saskatchewan:

(1) Grade cattle, sheep and hogs are bought for cash and sold on credit terms to farmers. Pure bred sires, bulls, rams and boars are supplied in the same way.

(2) A remunerative market has been built up for breeders of pure bred stock.

(3) Keen interest is taken in the live stock associations of Saskatchewan which are supported mainly by grants of money from the Government; and conduct auction sales of horses, cattle, sheep and swine at several points in the Province.

(4) Enrollment, inspection and licensing of stallions.

(5) Issuing and recording of brands for horses and cattle.

(6) An eminent veterinary surgeon is maintained to assist in controlling outbreaks of diseases of live stock not dealt with by the Dominion Government.

(7) In 1916 an experienced cattle man was appointed on the Winnipeg market to purchase for Saskatchewan farmers carloads of young cattle suitable for breeding purposes. This was the first practical step taken by any Government to assist in keeping these cattle in Canada instead of allowing thousands of young heifers to be shipped to the United States every year.

ROYAL COMMISSION

In 1916 the Government appointed a Royal Commission to inquire into and report upon various matters arising out of the live stock industry, including the question of stock yards and abattoirs. Prominent live stock men were appointed to conduct the investigation, and they are still engaged on their important work. A vast field requires to be covered, but a great deal of very helpful and useful information has already been obtained which is included in an interim report issued by the Commission. The recommendations contained in this report have already been made public, so need not be dealt with again now. Needless to say, great live stock development is expected to follow the sum total of their recommendations when the Commissioners have completed their labours.

The public is watching the work of this Commission with a good deal of interest. The results of other Royal Commissions appointed by the Government have borne such good fruit and proved so satisfactory to our farmers that it was natural that the live stock men should turn to the Government when they desired a solution of their problems. The Government in a very special sense merited their confidence. During the twelve years in which the Liberals have been in power in Saskatchewan they have dealt with many large and intricate problems, and in not a single instance have they failed to achieve the object desired to meet the wishes of the organised farmers.

THE CO-OPERATIVE ORGANISATION BRANCH

This branch was established in response to a widespread desire among our farmers to facilitate the organisation of co-operative associations for the production and marketing of farm products and the purchasing of farm supplies, etc. Much good work has been done and the benefits resulting from the marketing projects carried on by this branch have amply demonstrated what may be done by government assistance in the marketing of farm products. This is particularly true of poultry and wool, for which the farmers have received greatly increased prices. Under the direction of the co-operative branch, live stock marketing has made substantial progress in Saskatchewan and there is every indication of greater success being achieved in the future.

WEEDS AND SEED BRANCH

This branch through its field representatives as well as municipal officers, such as agricultural secretaries and weed inspectors, promotes such tillage and cropping methods as will control noxious weeds and result in bigger and better crops. It analyses seed grain for purity and tests it for germination; it also prepares exhibits of Saskatchewan's agricultural products. The fact that Saskatchewan farmers last year won 24 firsts, 14 seconds, 6 thirds and 3 championships with 46 exhibits of grain, grasses and vegetables at the International Dry Farming Congress at El Paso, Texas, will be fresh in the minds of the people. The Department of Agriculture collected these exhibits, paid transportation charges on them to Texas, and arranged for their display. That Saskatchewan not only made a clean sweep of the best prizes for cereal grains in both the open classes and the dry farming classes, but captured as well many prizes for vegetable and forage crops, constitutes very valuable publicity for this Province.

THE STATISTICS BRANCH

The Statistics Branch reports crop conditions, publishes the *Public Service Monthly*, institutes inquiries regarding farming practices, compiles general statistics and conducts a mailing bureau of the agricultural publications prepared by the Department of Agriculture or College of Agriculture.

FARMERS ASSISTED

During 1914-15 this Branch materially assisted farmers who had crop failures in 1914 by conducting a very large correspondence with their creditors, and in numerous instances was instrumental in relieving the pressure brought to bear by such creditors upon farmers.

GAME BRANCH AND MUSEUM

A very valuable service is being rendered by the Provincial Game Guardian in the collection of museum specimens, as well as in game protective work. The Provincial museum already contains thousands of fine specimens of animals, birds and insects native to Saskatchewan, as well as curios and articles of historic value which in future years will be priceless.

BUREAU OF LABOUR

The Bureau of Labour maintains public employment offices to obtain farm and domestic help for the farmers of Saskatchewan, and annually undertakes special campaigns to get men for farm work for seeding and harvest. It also administers several statutes affecting wage earners and supervises coal mines and factories in Saskatchewan.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

In addition to the foregoing summaries of the work of the various branches of the Department of Agriculture, the following must be added:

The Department organises and pays legislative grants to Agricultural Societies.

It pays scholarships to Domestic Science students from Saskatchewan attending eastern institutions.

It operates better farming trains.

It maintains district representatives in outlying districts to keep in touch with the farmers.

It instructs non-English speaking settlers in farming practice through their own press.

It watches over and seeks to further the interests of Saskatchewan farmers through ever changing conditions from year to year.

SOLDIERS AND THEIR INTERESTS

SOLDIERS' VOTES

The arrangement made whereby soldiers will vote for their own candidates for the Legislature will prove of the greatest possible benefit to the soldiers themselves, and also to the Government and Legislature as a whole, in dealing with the many problems affecting the soldiers which must come up for solution from time to time, not only during the war, but in the years of reconstruction immediately following the war. Under such a system, also, party politics, names, and cries will not be introduced as an element of friction and possible discord among the troops at the front.

Soldiers at Home

All Saskatchewan soldiers who are not overseas at the time of the election have the right to vote, no matter whether they are stationed in their home constituencies or anywhere else in the Province, or in Canada at the time the election is held. The votes of all such soldiers will be taken wherever they are mobilised in Canada, and their votes will apply to the constituencies in which they resided prior to enlistment.

Soldiers Overseas

All Saskatchewan soldiers who are overseas at the time of election have been granted the franchise giving them direct representation in the Legislature. It is provided that all citizens of Saskatchewan regardless of their age or nationality who are at present engaged with forces overseas and who were resident in the Province three months prior to enlistment will be entitled to vote for their own candidates. Candidates, in order to be eligible, must be members of the Expeditionary Force and have seen service overseas for at least six months prior to their nomination. One soldier member for the Legislature will be elected by those in England, and two other members by those in France and Belgium.

Returned Soldiers and Nurses

Provision has been made to enable all persons, male or female, to vote who have served in either the military or naval forces of Canada or Great Britain or her Allies in the war, and who have returned to Canada. They shall be entitled to vote, notwithstanding their absence from any electoral division when the printed voters' list was prepared, and notwithstanding the absence of their names from such list. All such persons desiring to vote must be British subjects by birth or naturalisation, 21 years of age, and must have resided in the electoral division in which they seek to vote for a period of not less than three months during the six months immediately prior to the time of their enlistment. They go to vote at the polling place in the polling subdivision in which they reside or last resided.

RETURNED SOLDIERS

Every citizen of Saskatchewan will heartily indorse the following declaration by the Liberal party at their convention held at Moose Jaw:

"The adoption of whatever measures are necessary to enable our soldiers upon their return to Saskatchewan to once more take an independent place in our civil life. The resources of the Province and the activities of every branch of the public service should be utilised to bring about this end as rapidly as possible."

Nothing will be left undone that can be done to assist in every way possible the brave lads who return from the front. The sacrifices they have made demand that a special effort be put forth to assist every returned soldier to take his place once more in our civil life. All the resources of the Province must be available for carrying out this important work. The Liberal party hold that any expenditure necessarily and wisely made for these purposes will be heartily indorsed by every patriotic citizen.

Employment Commission

One of the most important steps taken by the Government in the interests of the soldiers was the passing of the Returned Soldiers' Employment Act, under which the Saskatchewan Returned Soldiers' Employment Commission has been created and entrusted with the duty

of making a careful and comprehensive industrial and commercial survey of the available sources of employment for returned soldiers within the Province; to arrange through the medium of Returned Soldiers and Welcome Aid Leagues, Federal and Provincial labour bureaux, Boards of Trade, and other public bodies and institutions for the placing of returned soldiers in suitable positions, and to administer the funds of the Commission. Every possible effort will continue to be made to secure suitable and remunerative employment for all soldiers, sailors, and nurses who have served in the war, special attention being given to those cases where distress requires to be relieved.

It is of interest to note that in the new creamery legislation, incorporating the Saskatchewan Co-operative Creameries, Limited, to develop and promote the dairy and poultry industry of our Province, it is provided that in order to help the returned soldiers, in case a certain district is colonised by them, the Government may advance the whole sum necessary for the construction of a creamery.

SOLDIERS RELIEVED OF TAXATION

In connection with the amendments made to the municipal Acts, the Government went farther than any other Province in Canada has gone in protecting the property of men who have enlisted. By an amendment to the Rural Municipalities Act a soldier's homestead of one quarter section, and also his pre-emption of one quarter, if he has one, is entirely exempt from taxation. The property of enlisted soldiers within a village municipality is likewise exempt from taxation, this includes both his house and lots. In towns and cities soldiers are granted an exemption from taxation up to an amount of fifty dollars per annum.

By these amendments to the municipal acts the Government renders it impossible for a soldier's home to be forfeited for non-payment of taxes while he is absent in the service of his country.

WOMEN AND THEIR INTERESTS

LEGISLATION AFFECTING WOMEN

When the Saskatchewan Government decided to extend the vote to women they added in large measure to the noble work of the Liberal party.

To Saskatchewan belongs the proud distinction of being the first province in Canada where the women voted on a provincial issue, and thus once again Saskatchewan found itself leading the van of political progress.

The fullest possible franchise has been granted to the women of Saskatchewan. They asked for it, and the Government readily and willingly gave it to them. In granting women full rights of citizenship the Government did not profess to confer a favour or privilege out of the generosity of their hearts, rather they determined to extend the franchise to women for their intellectual and moral fitness, and because it was recognised that women's stake in the welfare and prosperity of our Province was at least equal to that of man's. So long as women had not the vote the Liberal party recognised that democracy would be totally incomplete on such important questions as temperance, education, taxation, labour, wages, housing and numerous other vital matters associated with and affecting the efficiency and the standard of the home life, and the life of the people.

Having secured the vote, our women have given early evidence of the fact that they value it highly. Their appreciation found expression in the following Resolution, which they drafted and submitted to the Provincial Liberal Convention held at Moose Jaw in March last:

"That this Convention, in which women for the first time participated on equal terms with men, express unqualified appreciation of ex-Premier Scott and his colleagues in causing to be made law two measures for which women have long worked and prayed—firstly, the overthrow of the legalised liquor traffic; secondly, the granting of the franchise to women, the chief value of which, in our view, consists in the fact that having in our hands the privilege and power of the ballot, assurance is made doubly sure that the threatening, blighting curse of alcoholism will never have legal sanction in our fair province again."

It can reasonably be expected that our Saskatchewan women will soon be as familiar as men with the issues involved in the economic and political life of the Province. They have already evinced keen interest in political affairs, and rendered valuable assistance in party organisations, conventions, and in other directions. Whilst they are sure to differ in politics, just as men do, there can be no question that where women see evidence of good government, of a sound, progressive and enterprising administration, mindful of the needs and aspirations of the people, they will recognise such and stamp it with their approval.

The Liberals welcome the women to their new economic, social, and political sphere, and wish them well.

As already stated, the Saskatchewan Government has granted the women the franchise to the fullest extent that lies in their power. A resolution urging that the *Federal* franchise be given them was adopted with unanimity and enthusiasm at the Provincial Liberal Convention, and embodies the convictions and intentions of the Liberal party.

WOMEN CAN NOW BE CANDIDATES

In addition to being allowed to run as candidates for the Legislature, it is now provided that in rural municipalities any woman that is assessed can be a candidate for the office of reeve or councillor. The wife of a farmer or settler who is assessed and is on the voter's list can, if she lives with him, also have a vote and qualify for the office of reeve or councillor.

The same amendments have been made in the Village, Town and City Acts, and the women are now placed in the position of being able to be candidates for school board trustees and so forth. In other words, the women of Saskatchewan have been granted the same privileges as the men. In fact they have been granted greater privileges, for whereas a man might be barred from running for reeve or councillor by reason of non-payment of taxes, his wife is under no such disability for, by reason of being his wife, irrespective of payment of taxes, she is enabled to run for municipal office.

LEGISLATION FOR WOMEN'S WELFARE

Since Saskatchewan became a Province in 1905, a large number of laws have been enacted by the Government of special interest to Saskatchewan women, because of their effect upon the domestic, social, and business welfare of every woman in the Province.

In addition, the Liberal party at its convention held in March last, included very important planks in their platform of particular interest to women dealing with:

- (a) Conditions of employment for girls and women;
- (b) Regulating their hours of employment and fixing a minimum wage for them;

(c) The inauguration of a system of pensions for mothers who may be left without sufficient means to support and educate their children.

These policies must commend themselves not only to the women of our Province, but to everybody who has given thought to the creation and maintenance of proper social and industrial conditions in our new country. While Saskatchewan has not developed any great industrial centres as yet, the Liberal party believes that an ounce of prevention is worth a ton of cure, and will see to it that the abuses, such as sweating, long hours of labour, insanitary working conditions, etc., which are to be found in older settled communities, are not allowed to creep into industrial establishments in our young and fair Province. The wages, work hours, and the comfort and health of our women and children workers must and will be protected.

As to mothers' pensions, little comment is necessary. The Government considers it has a duty to perform in providing a system of financially assisting mothers lacking sufficient means to support and educate their children. True to its principles of protecting the masses, particularly the weak and those unfortunately situated, the Saskatchewan Government has seen its duty and pledged itself to the performance of that duty. Laws already exist in some of the directions indicated, but these will be amplified and improved where necessary.

Among the many progressive laws already enacted for the benefit of women and children, the following may be mentioned:

(1) *The Homestead Act*, which prevents the transfer, mortgage, or sale of the homestead without the consent of the wife. The "homestead" may mean the original 160 acres homesteaded, or the 160 acres of purchased land on which the owner lives, or it may mean a house and lot in a city, town or village, as the case may be.

(2) *The Devolution of Estates Act* provides for an equitable and fair distribution of all estates of married men who die without having made a will. It also protects the wife's share in her husband's estate when a will has been made, if under the terms of his will her share in the estate is less than she would have obtained had there been no will. In such cases the widow may apply to the Supreme Court for relief.

(3) *The Hospital Act* makes provision for the erection of Hospitals in our rural centres. Possibly the feature which most commends itself to our women is the immense relief which these hospitals will afford in maternity cases. Everything possible is being done to insure the provision of proper nursing care and medical attention in such cases. The women themselves are most keenly interested in this hospital question, and are doing everything possible to help the good cause along.

(4) *The Factories' Act* is a modern and effective piece of legislation designed to protect the lives and health of female as well as male employees. The Act prohibits the employment of children under 14 years of age in factories.

(5) *The Deserted Wives' Maintenance Act*.—This Act, though brief, is a very important one. It stipulates that a deserted wife can claim from her husband a weekly sum not exceeding \$10, having regard to his means and to any means which the wife may have for her support and the support of her family.

(6) *Employment of Female Labour*, white women and girls, by Chinamen in laundries, restaurants or other places of business is forbidden by law under severe penalties.

Inspectors are employed to see that all the provisions of the law are lived up to.

Suitable regulations have also been framed to protect female workers from risks of accident, and every possible protection must be afforded them both as regards health and safety.

Regulations have also been made covering hours of labour by women and girls.

Bonusing Physicians and Nurses.—Rural Municipalities are now empowered to engage municipal nurses or to grant aid for securing the services of nurses. The municipalities may also make grants to medical men to induce them to take up medical practice in districts where doctors are not located.

Other excellent laws can be found on our statute books having for their object the welfare, happiness, and prosperity of all our women.

ASSISTING MOTHERS IN MATERNITY CASES

Provision has been granted through the Bureau of Public Health whereby financial aid to the extent of \$25.00 is given in maternity cases in isolated country districts to persons who without such aid would be unable to engage medical assistance and purchase necessary supplies. The doctor who attends such cases is paid \$15.00, and \$10.00 is paid direct to mothers who need it. This assistance is not so necessary in cities and urban communities where doctors services are readily available.

CHILD PROTECTION

Highly commendable work is being done by the Department of the Superintendent of Neglected and Dependent Children, established by the Government for the protection of children from cruelty, and for the caring and protecting of neglected, abandoned, or orphaned children, including those left in criminal surroundings.

In addition to the general work among neglected children ample and suitable arrangements have been made for the care and instruction of deaf, dumb, and blind children, also for the important work which requires to be done among our feeble minded children.

In the estimates last session special provision was made for neglected and dependent children of the Province, no less a sum than \$58,840 being provided for assistance and a further sum of \$60,000 for the establishment of homes for these unfortunate children.

JUVENILE COURTS

Juvenile Courts were created by an Act passed at the last session of the Legislature. Magistrates will be appointed to hear complaints against juvenile offenders, and any Justice of the Peace may, on the written request of the Attorney General or of the superintendent of neglected children, act as a juvenile court judge.

It is further provided that every agent of a children's aid society shall be a probation officer for juvenile delinquents within a city, town, village, rural municipality or rural district in which such society is situated. Where there is no such society, a committee of citizens to be known as the Juvenile Court Committee, may be appointed on the approval of the Attorney General.

Nothing but good can possibly accrue as a result of the aforementioned progressive and enlightened measures in behalf of our children.

SOUND FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

The prudent and progressive financial administration of the Government has been one of the secrets of its popularity. No part of the Government's record appears in a more favourable light, and invites closer inspection and criticism. The policy of the Government pertaining to finances has kept pace with the marvellous growth of our Province, the prodigious increase in population, and provided largely and wisely for the future development of the country.

As is usual at election time, the Conservative party is trying to be all things to all men. On the one hand they indulge in general denunciation of all Government expenditures in the past, and on the other hand are not slow to make promises of expenditures of public moneys, whichever they think will help them most politically. Following the time-honoured rule, Conservatives are trying hard to make the people believe that the Government is bankrupt, that its credit is worthless, and that we have an enormous public debt which should never have been created. In an attempt to justify this "blue ruin" cry our Opposition leaders, writers and speakers, make most reckless and extravagant statements; figures are exaggerated and twisted beyond all recognition; all with the idea of confusing and beclouding the public mind.

It is necessary, therefore, to give a clear statement of actual facts so that the general public may get a correct understanding of the financial administration and present financial condition of our Province. It is obviously impossible to fully explain every item of expenditure within the limits of a short article such as this, but a study of the facts and figures given under main heads will suffice to convince all fair minded and unprejudiced people that our finances are in an excellent condition.

INTERESTING COMPARISONS

The following figures relating to the public debt of Saskatchewan and other provinces have been extracted from official publications. Any person who seeks to take the measure of the Saskatchewan Government as financiers, in comparison with other provinces in Canada, will find ample material in these figures. No clearer demonstration could be given of the careful financial administration by our Government:

Province	Gross Public Debt	Net Public Debt	Per Capita Debt	
			Gross	Net
Saskatchewan	\$24,292,000	\$16,048,000	\$35	\$28
Manitoba	28,828,274	22,246,811	53	41
Alberta	26,733,179	*	44	*
British Columbia	17,948,275	*	45	*
Ontario	45,061,401	*	18	*

*Not available.

The public debt of Saskatchewan is only just about equal to that of our three principal cities, Regina, Saskatoon, and Moose Jaw, combined.

The per capita (per head) debt of these cities is as follows:

Regina	\$270
Saskatoon	299
Moose Jaw	806

The Conservative party dare not charge that the other provinces of Canada and Saskatchewan cities above mentioned are bankrupt, yet they do not hesitate to make this attack on our own Province, which has a very much lower per capita (per head) debt. In the case

of Ontario, which alone shows a per capita debt below that of Saskatchewan, it should be remembered that the former province owns its own natural resources, and is admitted to be the wealthiest province in Canada; it has a population four times greater than Saskatchewan, and has had fifty years to accomplish many of the things Saskatchewan has been compelled to do in ten years. Despite, however, all these advantages Ontario has only been able to keep its per capita debt at half that of Saskatchewan.

THE PUBLIC DEBT

The Public Debt has been created in order to provide for capital and patriotic expenditures, as follows:

Capital Expenditures

The following is a statement of expenditures chargeable to Capital Account made by the Government since the inauguration of the Province in 1905 to April 30, 1916:

Public Improvements—

Bridges crossing the Saskatchewan and other rivers	\$2,819,000
Permanent highways	2,559,000
Aid to municipalities in the construction of highways	723,000
Relief work on public improvements to aid distress owing to drought in the fall of 1914	1,111,000
Ferries, expropriation of land and miscellaneous	89,000
Total amount expended for public improvements	<u>\$6,751,000</u>

Public Buildings—

Public buildings erected for administrative purposes (Parliament Buildings, Land Titles Office, etc.)	\$3,517,000
Public buildings erected for judicial and correctional purposes (Court Houses, Jails, etc.)	1,546,000
Public buildings erected for benevolent purposes (Hospitals and Sanatorium)	1,844,000
Public buildings erected for educational purposes (University and Normal Schools) ..	1,994,000
Total expended for public buildings and institutions	<u>8,901,000</u>

Telephone System—

Purchases and construction, including town and city exchanges, long distance lines, etc.	5,388,000
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Elevators—

Loans to the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company, Limited, which are being repaid	1,652,000
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City of Regina—

Loan for the purpose of enabling the civic authorities to assist citizens in rebuilding properties destroyed by cyclone	500,000
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Drainage District—

Advances to defray cost of construction of drains pending completion of ultimate issue of Drainage District Debentures. \$118,000 has since been repaid to the treasury	146,000
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Total of Capital Expenditures.....\$23,338,000

Patriotic Aids

To the foregoing items must be added expenditures which have been necessary owing to the great war now raging, for the reason that provision has to be made for the same out of borrowed moneys, thus affecting the Public Debt. It has been the great privilege of the people of this Province through their Government to assist the Empire by a magnificent gift of horses to the Imperial authorities and assistance to patriotic and relief funds at home and abroad, etc., totalling in all the sum of 475,000

Total \$23,813,000

THE NET PUBLIC DEBT

From the total of the gross Public Debt must be deducted the following expenditures, which are in the nature of investments:

Investments

Telephone System \$5,388,000

This system bears the interest and sinking fund charges on the capital borrowed to provide for the cost of construction. The current account of the Province is consequently relieved of these charges. In the opinion of experts the construction cost has been a very low one, and can compare favourably with that of commercial enterprises of like nature.

Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company, Limited \$1,652,000

Loans to this company are made for the purpose of assisting in the construction of elevators. A mortgage on the elevators constructed bearing five per cent. interest with repayments of principal spread over twenty years is given as security. It is hardly necessary to state in view of the well-known financial success of this company that the interests of the Province are well safeguarded.

City of Regina Cyclone Loan \$500,000

This loan is well secured by a mortgage bearing five per cent. interest on property owned by the city, and will be paid off as soon as more prosperous times return.

Drainage Districts \$146,000

Advances made to these districts are of a temporary nature, being repaid after the completion of the work. Interest is charged at as low a rate as possible without loss to the Province.

Total of investments relieving current account of Public Debt charges \$7,686,000

In addition to the investments above shown there must also be deducted from the gross public debt the value of sinking funds, viz.: \$558,000, which have been created for the protection of the loans at maturity. These funds will in the course of a few years be greatly increased in value, without any additional cost to the Province, owing to businesslike administration and careful investment of sinking fund moneys.

The deduction of the amount of investments and sinking funds from the gross Public Debt leaves the net Public Debt as follows:

Gross Public Debt	\$21,292,000
Total investments	\$7,686,000
Sinking Funds	558,000
	8,244,000
Net Public Debt	\$16,048,000

NECESSITY FOR PUBLIC DEBT

The foregoing statement of permanent improvements, comprising public buildings and institutions, bridges, roads, telephones, elevators, and other public requirements, conveys a good idea of the many and varied demands made upon the Government which called for the expenditures of large sums of money on Capital account, which created the Public Debt.

Our population grew from 250,000 in 1905, when the Government took office, to about 700,000 at the present time. It was only to be expected that such an enormous influx of settlers would mean constant and urgent requests for public improvements and facilities incidental to modern civilisation and a new country, requests which would not bear postponement to a later date. The Government had no choice in the matter. Having invited the people to our Province it was the Government's bounden duty to exert every effort to make the newcomers, as well as the old timers, happy, contented and prosperous. This could only be done by providing the necessary public improvements and services mentioned. Their necessity was incontestable, consequently the expenditures on them must be considered to have been prudent and justifiable. Niggardly administration under such circumstances was impossible.

To accuse the Government, as do the Conservatives, of extravagance for spending money on the construction of roads, bridges, telephones, elevators, etc., notwithstanding the public need and demand for them, betrays little knowledge of the duties of a responsible government, and comes very near the verge of saying that no development should have taken place in our Province.

The capital moneys required to pay the cost of the public improvements, etc., aforementioned were provided out of borrowed funds obtained by selling Government securities. It would have been

cial benefit to the British Government in their war financing. So beneficial in fact were these operations that the British Chancellor of the Exchequer has since requested the Dominion Government to suggest to all the other provinces and municipalities that they follow a like course.

In a report by the British Treasury Department the lords of the Treasury stated:

"They are of the opinion that the extension of these operations is one of the chief ways in which the Dominion of Canada can render assistance to His Majesty's Government in the most insistent of the financial problems arising out of the war."

STANDING IN MONEY MARKETS

Keen competition exists, and has always existed, amongst the great financial houses all over the American continent for our Saskatchewan Government bonds. The riveted attention of these hard-headed, astute financiers on Saskatchewan provincial securities is in itself excellent testimony of the healthy condition of our exchequer. Their bids are only made after much time spent in the minutest scrutiny of our financial standing as a province. Not one syllable of Conservative criticism of the "bankruptcy" type (which might do real hurt to the credit of Saskatchewan, our municipalities, and people) has convinced them that any of our public expenditures have been made beyond the legitimate wants of the Province. On the contrary, nothing but the strongest possible proof is found of the fact that the financial administration of the Province has been conducted in a safe, business-like manner.

Is any clearer indication needed that the men now in office are men to be entrusted and relied upon?

The claim of the farmers that they should be able to borrow money at a lower price was one which the Liberal party recognised as incontestable. It will be remembered that as long ago as 1918 the Government appointed a Commission to examine into ways and means of establishing agricultural credit (in other words, cheap money) for farmers. After the Commission reported, a plan was devised for loaning money to farmers. It was, however, found impossible to put the scheme into operation owing to altered monetary conditions arising out of the war, and other causes. A new Act, therefore, was passed to take the place of the former legislation.

FARM LOAN BOARD

To provide long term credit the new Act establishes what will be known as the Saskatchewan Farm Loan Board. This Board will consist of one commissioner and two members. The commissioner, Mr. Colin Fraser, will be the manager of the institution. The other two will receive no salary, but will be entitled to a per diem allowance together with such other allowances as may be necessary to cover travelling and subsistence expenses when engaged upon the business of the Board. Precautions have been taken to keep the Board entirely separate and apart from politics. It will be a disinterested body such as the Local Government Board.

The Board will be given power to lend money to agriculturists on the security of first mortgages on their farm lands, and to do all things necessary or incidental to the business of lending money on farm property.

The Board will also have the power to approve or reject applications for loans; to engage and fix the remuneration of such employees as may be required; to do all things which come within the corporate capacity of the board, and to make all regulations necessary for the proper transaction of business.

It will be the duty of the commissioner to perform such of the duties and exercise such of the powers of the board as may be imposed upon or delegated to him from time to time by the board. The board may under this arrangement lay down conditions under which the commissioner himself may make loans.

NATURE OF LOANS

All loans will be made for a term of 80 years and, as stated, upon the security of a first mortgage on the farm. No loan, however, will be made for an amount in excess of 50 per cent. of the valuation of the property offered as security. Whilst the loan period has been fixed at 80 years, provision is made in the law so that the borrower may pay off the loan at any previous time, and may make a payment larger than the payment next due if so desired. The 80 year period was fixed merely to facilitate ease in handling the scheme. It will be seen, however, that it makes no difference whatever to the borrower who can pay off his indebtedness at any time prior to due date when he is in a position to do so.

It is stipulated that the loans are to be made and must be expended for productive or improvement purposes, or on the payment of liabilities previously incurred in these directions. The board may, however, in cases which meet with their special approval make loans for the purchase of land for agricultural purposes.

SYSTEM EXPLAINED

All loans will be made on an amortisation basis. That is to say, the annual payments will include interest and a percentage of the principal, thus enabling the whole liability to be discharged by a series

of small annual payments. The following table will illustrate how this plan works out, instancing as an example a loan of \$1,000 for 30 years. Taking an assumed interest rate of six and one-half per cent., the borrower, it will be seen, would need to make thirty payments each of \$76.58 to pay off the loan.

SPECIMEN AMORTISATION TABLE
Based on a 6½ Per Cent. Interest Rate
30 Equal Annual Payments of \$76.58
Principal, \$1,000.00

Years	Interest Payments	Principal Payments	Total Annual Payment	Outstanding Principal
1	\$65.00	\$11.58	\$76.58	\$988.42
2	64.25	12.83	76.58	976.09
3	63.45	13.13	76.58	962.96
4	62.60	13.98	76.58	948.98
5	61.69	14.89	76.58	934.09
6	60.72	15.86	76.58	918.23
7	59.69	16.89	76.58	901.34
8	58.59	17.99	76.58	883.85
9	57.42	19.16	76.58	864.19
10	56.17	20.41	76.58	843.78
11	54.85	21.73	76.58	822.05
12	53.44	23.14	76.58	798.91
13	51.93	24.65	76.58	774.26
14	50.33	26.25	76.58	748.01
15	48.62	27.96	76.58	720.05
16	46.80	29.78	76.58	690.27
17	44.87	31.71	76.58	658.66
18	42.81	33.77	76.58	624.79
19	40.61	35.97	76.58	588.82
20	38.27	38.31	76.58	550.61
21	35.79	40.79	76.58	509.72
22	33.18	43.45	76.58	466.27
23	30.31	46.27	76.58	420.00
24	27.30	49.28	76.58	370.72
25	24.10	52.48	76.58	318.24
26	20.69	55.89	76.58	262.85
27	17.05	59.53	76.58	202.82
28	13.18	63.40	76.58	139.42
29	9.06	67.52	76.58	71.90
30	4.68	71.90	76.58	00.00
	<u>\$1,297.40</u>	<u>\$1,000.00</u>		

A table similar to the foregoing will be indorsed on the copy of the mortgage which will be given to the borrower, who will thus know exactly where he stands at any time during the period of the loan.

RATE OF INTEREST

The rate of interest has not, and cannot be, definitely fixed owing to the fluctuations which occur from time to time in the money markets. The loans, however, will be advanced subject only to overhead charges of administration. There will be no attempt made at all by the board to earn a profit.

Hon. Mr. Dunning, Provincial Treasurer, has expressed the view that interest rates are probably as high now as they are likely to go. Taking, therefore, the present high rates, and if it is possible to loan money at even 6 1-2 per cent., the saving to the farmers will be enormous. It has been estimated that if our farmers could borrow money for 2 per cent. less than the rates they now pay (and this ought to be possible under the new scheme) they could, by making their payments on the amortisation plan, discharge their total indebtedness in about 24 years' time, by simply continuing to pay what they are now paying for interest.

GENERAL

Mr. Dunning indicated that he thought the organisation should be able to operate at a cost of about 1 per cent. With a return to easier financial conditions the interest rates will of course be reduced, and the farmers will, therefore, get the benefit of any such reduction. In any event the farmer is assured that he will no longer be obliged to carry the heavy load as in the past. He will certainly not be compelled to borrow at very high, and in some cases extortionate, rates of interest.

To make the loans it is intended that the Provincial Treasurer shall borrow money and turn it over to the board at cost, taking as security the mortgages given by the borrowers. Bonds will be issued, known as "Saskatchewan Farm Loan Bonds," which will be backed by the security of the property of the borrowers and reinforced by a Provincial guarantee.

One of the merits of the scheme is that under the above arrangement it will help to keep Saskatchewan money at home.

The whole scheme is a big one and cannot fail to be of incalculable benefit and assistance to our farmers. The Government have done their duty, and done it well, and it now rests with our farmers to show that loyalty to the scheme in the field of credit which they have shown in other directions where the principle of co-operation has been applied.

While the organisation will be brought into being before the next election is held, no loans will be made until after the election is over. This arrangement should silence any criticism as to the scheme being merely an election dodge, and is in keeping with the whole idea to keep the scheme entirely out of politics.

REMARKABLE RAILWAY RECORD

Saskatchewan is rightly proud of its record in railway construction under Liberal Government.

PROMISES KEPT

When the Liberals took office in 1905 the railway facilities fell far short of meeting and satisfying transportation requirements. Branch lines were sorely needed to bring the farmer within reach of transportation facilities which would permit the profitable pursuit of his culturing. Without such transportation facilities the Liberal party realised that the farmer did not reap his just reward as the result of his labours, and the yield of the soil. Consequently when the Government was elected in 1905 they were pledged to rapid railway development. They have done exactly what they said they meant to do, namely, extend railways in every direction. Look at the map. The map proves convincingly that years of Liberal rule have been marked by a very great

expansion in railway construction. Faithful to their promises the Saskatchewan Government has put to its credit a great record of railway construction work—a record unequalled in the same time by any other government. Today there are over 6,200 miles of railway in Saskatchewan.

INTERESTING COMPARISONS

During the twenty-two years ending 1905 there was constructed in what is now the Province of Saskatchewan, 1,552 miles of railway. In just half the time, 1905 to 1916, over 4,550 miles of railway have been built. In other words, almost three times as much construction work has gone on in half the time.

When Saskatchewan was created a Province in 1905 it possessed one mile of railroad for every 161 inhabitants. Today there exists one mile of railroad for every 116 people. Viewed from a different angle the situation is that while the population grew enormously and almost trebled itself, still the railway mileage more than kept pace and increased fourfold in the same length of time.

On the average more than one mile of railway has been built each day in Saskatchewan during the eleven years that the Government has been in office, Sundays and holidays included.

Saskatchewan far outstripped all the other provinces in the Dominion in the matter of railway construction from the time the Government's railway policy was put into force up to the commencement of the great war.

The estimated acreage brought within profitable reach of transportation points in consequence of the construction of branch lines under the Government's policy of bond guarantees is 18,944,000 acres. Think what this means!

Judged from the above and every standpoint Saskatchewan has set a splendid record and shown unexampled progress in railway construction, which indicates the large measure of success which has attended the railway policy of the Government, and their efforts to keep transportation facilities abreast of settlement.

SASKATCHEWAN RAILWAYS COST PUBLIC NOTHING

To have railways built, other provinces of Canada have granted railway companies cash subsidies besides giving largely of their provincial wealth. Not so in Saskatchewan. Under the policy followed by our Government the prodigious increase in railway mileage has been built without the cost of a cent or any burden whatever to the public. Active competition was created among all three railway companies, construction work was speeded up, and not a little of the C. P. R. mileage built would never have been constructed but for the guaranteeing of their competitors' lines. The farmers have gained in extension of railways, gained in the development of their industry, gained in the price they receive for their grain, gained in freight rates, gained in many other ways in the development of their communities, and at the same time, as farmers, they have not been asked to pay a cent for all these positive benefits arising out of railway construction.

TRAFFIC FACILITIES

The Government did not stop and congratulate themselves after having branch lines built, but set about to improve their value and serviceableness to the farmers and public by providing facilities to handle the traffic more expeditiously and, as far as possible, as quickly as required in order to relieve congestion. Legislative provision has

been made by which terminals will be constructed at several important points throughout the Province; various additions and improvements have been made to the equipment of the various branch lines; a large number of new structures such as loading platforms, elevators, freight sheds, stock yards, etc., have been built; new depots have been erected and station agents appointed at numerous points. In these and other ways the Government has seen to it that the equipment, etc., of the various lines including those built under Provincial guarantees has been the best possible so as to be of the greatest benefit and assistance to the people.

RAILWAY TAXATION

Provision is made in the law for suitable taxation of railway companies operating in Saskatchewan. Approximately \$100,000 is annually paid by railway companies into the general revenue of the Province, which money is spent solely for the benefit of the people. This amount will be very greatly increased as time goes on.

PROTECTION OF WORKMEN AND MERCHANTS

The Liberal railway policy compels payment of fair wages to workmen and labourers employed in the construction of lines. It also protects merchants and dealers located in the vicinity of railway construction in the matter of the purchase of materials and supplies which must be brought from them in so far as this can be done upon terms and conditions equally favourable to the company as those obtainable elsewhere.

FREIGHT RATES

Erroneous criticism of the Provincial Government is sometimes made with regard to the control of freight rates. In this connection it must be remembered that the absolute regulative powers in regard to rail rates, rebates, discriminations, etc., passed entirely into the hands of the Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada when that body was appointed.

PAST AND FUTURE

In carrying out their railway construction programme on such a handsome scale the Government has had to meet and overcome many difficulties. Money, labour and steel rails have been, and are still, exceedingly scarce. Everybody knows the reasons for this unfortunate state of affairs, and nothing more requires to be said in explanation. Progress in railway construction has unfortunately been interrupted in our Province since the war began. There are many miles of track doing excellent service behind the trenches in France and Belgium which otherwise would have been laid in Saskatchewan. In addition, steel has actually had to be removed from existing Canadian tracks for shipment to Europe.

As already stated, due to the paralysing effect of conditions arising out of the war, there has naturally followed a reduction in the number of miles of railway built in Saskatchewan during the past year or two. The war has had disastrous effects upon railway construction work in every part of the world. Take our neighbouring American States for example; there was no mileage built in South Dakota in 1915, only 8 miles in Montana, and 26 miles in North Dakota. In the whole of the United States only 898 miles of railway were built in 1915. So that whilst Saskatchewan's record, 121 miles, is disappointing, still having regard to all adverse conditions it must be considered satisfactory.

Looking to the future, it is realised that though much has been done, much still remains to be done. That several new branch lines in thickly populated areas are urgently required is fully recognised

and appreciated by the Liberal party who, at their great convention held at Moose Jaw unanimously adopted the following resolution:

"Branch Railways.—The construction of branch railways through all settlements urgently in need of transportation facilities. While realising that the war has unavoidably delayed the building of branch lines, still the solution of this problem is so vital to thousands of our farming population that we believe, if the railway required cannot be secured when peace is declared by the aid of bond guarantees, or other assistance, the Province itself should undertake the construction of these lines."

From this resolution it is abundantly clear that the Liberal party has determined to leave no stone unturned in its desire to see every part of the Province adequately provided with transportation facilities with as little delay as possible. Their splendid record in the past in the matter of railway construction is the best guarantee of what they can be expected to accomplish in the future.

For fuller details as to railway expansion in Saskatchewan see Government bulletin issued by the Department of Railways.

TELEPHONE SERVICE

RAPID DEVELOPMENT

In a province of vast areas such as Saskatchewan, populated by progressive people following agricultural pursuits, the demand for telephones, as was natural to expect, was unanimous and insistent. The policy adopted by the Government to meet the situation is well known. It has achieved remarkable success, and our telephone system is growing more rapidly than any other system in Canada today.

After carefully considering the whole question, the Government decided on the ownership and control of long distance lines, and the control and supervision of all other lines. Expression was given to this policy in the legislation passed in 1908, which empowered the Government to take possession of the telephone field. This legislation was embodied in three acts as follows: (a) Railway and Telephone Department Act; (b) Municipal Telephone Act; (c) Rural Telephone Act.

The Railway and Telephone Department Act provided for the creation of the Telephone Department; the control of the telephone field; and the powers of the Minister.

Quick action followed the organisation of the Telephone Department. The purchase of existing systems was made as follows:

System Bought	Date	Price	Subscribers	Pole Males Long Distance	Wire Miles Long	Exchanges	Toll Offices
Bell System	1909	\$367,500	2,100	284	876	13	20
Saskatchewan Tel. Co.	1909	150,000	1,011	258	686	4	82
Wapella-Harris System	1909	1,200	34	...	...	1	1
North Western Tel. Co.	1911	70,000	925	...	...	1	..
Saltecoats Tel. System	1911	3,000	58	...	...	1	..
Swift Current Plant.	1911	22,500	293	...	...	1	..
Yorkton N. W. Elec. System	1912	8,600	188	...	...	1	..
Balcarres Mun. System	1917	2,100	55	...	...	1	..
Lumsden Radial System	1917	3,000	75	...	...	1	..

THE MUNICIPAL TELEPHONE ACT

Five town systems were built under the provisions of this Act at Abernethy, Carnduff, Carievale, Melfort and Balcarres. The last mentioned system has lately been purchased by the Government.

This legislation did not seem to appeal to the public. The requirements of the situation in the telephone field were so completely covered by the Companies Act and the Rural Telephone Act that those wanting the services seemed to prefer taking action under their terms. The Municipal Act was therefore repealed in 1911.

RURAL TELEPHONE ACT

The outstanding features of this legislation may be briefly summarised as follows:

- (1) Co-operation between Government and people.
- (2) Government supervision.
- (3) Organisation, incorporation and registration of companies free of charge.
- (4) Limitation of capitalisation.
- (5) Limitation of shares to be held by any one subscriber.
- (6) Limitation of dividend to be distributed.
- (7) Prevention of exclusion of any person who lived within reasonable distance of the system from getting service.
- (8) Control of rates.
- (9) Control of interchange of business between companies.
- (10) Assistance by way of grant of poles free of charge.
- (11) Exemption from taxation.

As was to be expected in any new enterprise difficulties were met with by the farmers in organisation work, chief among them being:

- (1) Getting average of one subscriber to mile, as required by Departmental regulation.
- (2) Getting funds from subscribers because of requiring full payment for shares in advance.

The remedies suggested by the farmers to overcome the difficulties mentioned were:

- (1) Making vacant lands help pay for the line.
- (2) Distribution of payment of shares over a term of years.
- (3) With these provisions made, grant of poles might be withdrawn.

After careful consideration the Act was repealed in 1913, and its place taken by a second Rural Telephone Act, which embodied all the features of the first Act, and provided power to Companies to issue debentures to raise funds, repayable in not more than fifteen (15) years and bearing not more than eight per cent. (8%) interest yearly; equal payments of principal and interest to be met by levy of tax on all lands lying immediately adjacent to the line; all such lands to be provided with service as soon as resident occupant applied in writing for service.

What Was Aimed At

- (a) Freedom of action on the part of a community in providing itself with telephone service.
- (b) Logical expansion of the service.
- (c) Cheaper maintenance of the service.
- (d) Lower annual rates.
- (e) Local management in the light of local circumstances and conditions.
- (f) Natural definition of boundaries to telephone areas through community interests.

What Has Been Achieved

(a) Companies operating December 31, 1916.....	735
(b) Pole mileage December 31, 1916	24,856
(c) Wire mileage December 31, 1916	73,549
(d) Subscribers, December 31, 1916	25,141
(e) Investment, December 31, 1916	\$4,413,170

New Work For 1917

(a) Applications for incorporation of new companies..	140
(b) Pole mileage	5,389
(c) Subscribers	5,522
(d) Extensions to existing systems	106
(e) Pole mileage	1,548
(f) Subscribers	1,787
(g) Total applications	246
(h) Total pole mileage	6,937
(i) Total subscribers	7,259

SATISFACTORY RESULTS

So that the hope that prompted the adoption of the policy for speedily supplying rural service has had satisfactory realisation. A continuation of the present interest will shortly see the Province covered with small systems operated as a convenience, managed locally, standardised to meet long distance requirements, with a central office acting in an advisory and supervisory capacity, and all linked together with long distance lines, the whole giving a Provincial system operated by the Government and the people to meet the needs of the various sections of the Province.

OUTSIDE POINTS REACHED

The only outside points reached when the policy was first adopted were Manitoba and North Dakota. The outside points now reached are: Western Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois.

TELEPHONE DEVELOPMENT

	Government System	December 1909	December 1916
Exchanges		20	158
Toll offices		58	351
Subscribers		3,412	17,501
Long Distance pole miles		1,132	4,274
Long Distance wire miles		3,280	17,962

Rural System

Rural Companies	76	1,026
Pole Mileage, Rural Companies	2,047	24,856
Wire Mileage, Rural Companies		73,549
Rural Subscribers	2,118	25,141
Rural subscribers added during 1916		6,010
New Companies ready at May 1st, 1917, to construct systems during coming season represent subscribers		12,022
Number of rural subscribers at the end of December, 1917, is expected to be		37,000

MAINTENANCE OF RURAL LINES

The maintenance of rural lines presented a problem. To meet the situation the Government opened a school at which duly accredited representatives from rural companies might attend a short session of two weeks, to be given, free of charge, practical demonstration of troubles to be met with and the method of their removal. Although only those companies west of Regina were notified, one hundred and

eleven students attended and went home satisfied that they could better cope with the difficulties of maintaining service. It is intended that this school shall be continued in the hope that the rural companies will in time develop help located on their system and qualified to detect and remove all the ordinary troubles that interfere with a satisfactory service.

WESTERN PROVINCES COMPARED

In Manitoba the government purchased the entire Bell system in 1908, and started with 14,195 subscribers' stations. Saskatchewan purchased several different companies in 1909, having 3,145 subscribers' stations. At the end of 1915 the Manitoba subscribers totalled 44,697, while at the end of the same period the Saskatchewan subscribers totalled 85,882. In other words, the Manitoba increase in nine years was 80,502, while in eight years the increase in Saskatchewan was 32,187.

At December 30, 1915, the long distance construction of the three Western Provinces stood as follows:

	Sask.	Man.	Alta.
Wire mileage	16,114	—	16,780
Pole mileage	3,662	—	4,095
Exchange stations	85,882	44,717	35,046
Rural stations	18,150	12,273	10,802

GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP

The Conservative party has brought the question of Government ownership of telephones to the fore by adopting this policy as a plank in their platform. It is interesting and instructive, therefore, to read the following comments made by Mr. Kelsey, one of the leading telephone experts on the continent:

"One of the greatest object lessons ever given to the telephone business is now offered by the Manitoba government, which a few years ago went into the telephone business.

"The lesson particularly applies to the rural, as well as small town telephone companies. In these localities, the farm telephone charges range from \$20 to \$24 per year, while the local subscriber pays from \$15 to \$25 per year.

"It must be borne in mind that the Manitoba government telephone business is operated by skilled and conscientious men, just as any private business is. And it must further be borne in mind that the reference is not to be used as an argument against government ownership, but simply a condition and not a theory of anything.

"In the small town or provincial local service, there are 8,594 telephones. Naturally these telephones are scattered about in relatively small groups, just as our average independent telephone companies are.

"The performance of these particular telephones average as follows:

Income	\$221,787
Cost of operation	227,776

Operating deficit \$5,989

"In addition to the normal deficit of \$5,989 for mere operating conditions, a return on the investment was also defaulted, so that the total loss on the operation of 8,594 small town telephones is as follows:

Operating deficit	\$ 5,989
Interest deficit	39,553

Total deficit \$45,542

"This means a loss of \$5.30 per year upon every telephone, even "when the average income equals \$21.23.

"How many telephone companies have an average gross earning "of \$21.23 per telephone? The loss in operation exceeds that amount "by \$5.30 per telephone, demonstrating that it actually cost \$26.50 to "operate a local telephone under the very best governmental auspices.

"This amount compares favourably with the average cost of "operating a universal Bell telephone, which comes close to \$30 per "year—thus showing that private ownership has nothing on govern- "mental ownership when it comes to comparison of actual standard "conditions.

"Going into the farm telephone question, we have a still larger "problem solved. Manitoba operates 11,960 farm telephones under the "best standard conditions of construction and operation.

"The financial performance of the rural telephone is revealed as "follows:

Income	\$283,212
Cost of operating	342,457
Operating deficit	\$59,245

"In addition to the normal operating deficit of \$59,245, there is a "large interest charge, so the total loss on the operation of 11,960 farm "telephones under the best conditions is as follows:

Operating deficit	\$59,245
Interest deficit	95,370
Total	<u>\$154,615</u>

"This means a loss of \$12.98 on every farm telephone operated by "this Government, even when the average income from a farm tele- "phone is \$22.18.

"How many telephone companies earn \$22.18 on every farm tele- "phone that they operate? Yet the loss in this case is \$12.93 more, "making the total cost of operating a farm telephone of \$35 per year.

"Can you imagine your farmer customers paying \$35 per year "for telephone service? Can you imagine your average town sub- "scriber paying you \$26.50 per year for his telephone service?

"Here you have actual figures of the cost of giving telephone "service. If you went digging into your telephone vineyard in search "of buried treasure, this is what you would find that you should get "for your telephone service.

"It is not the purpose of the story to frighten anyone into a belief "that the whole industry is a ruin. The purpose of the story is to "show each telephone man how much he is entitled to for risking his "life, money, health and happiness.

"So long as men do not count their time and charge nothing for "it, they can give telephone service at present prices. But telephone "properties should earn enough to have happy employees and pleased "stockholders who would gladly invest in necessary additions and "extensions and keep the manufacturers busy as well—to contribute to "state and national associations and subscribe for the trade papers.

"What a gigantic business we could be proud of if we but gave "it the intensive cultivation it deserves."

GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP A FAILURE

The foregoing is indicative of the adverse financial balance which might be expected to accrue from government ownership. A government can build rural telephone lines as cheaply as the local companies, but the cost of administration, etc., would necessarily be much greater and thereby increase the rental charge. The telephone lines run through many sparsely settled districts, and if the lines were under government control and management employees would constantly require to be sent long distances, and at great cost, to maintain them in the state of efficiency necessary to give the required satisfactory service. Under the present plan where the local companies own their own lines, local men will receive special training from the Government (incidentally free of cost) and go back to their districts so that each local company will have at least one trained trouble man to call upon in case of need. He will not be paid a salary. He will be a resident farmer or farmer's son and simply be paid an allowance for the time which he has taken to remove the trouble and repair the line. Under this arrangement the very large staff of telephone experts which would be required under government ownership are thus dispensed with.

The popularity of Saskatchewan's present system is largely attributable to the fact that under it a rural community creates its own rural telephone company based upon local relations, local conditions, and local requirements. The local people like to organise and manage their local business affairs, and know very well that under a government owned system many of these important features would, for perfectly obvious reasons, require to be ignored. It would be a business and engineering proposition pure and simple if and when taken over by the government, and as it would be the people's money that the Government was spending, limitations in expenditure would naturally arise which do not apply in the case of local rural companies.

Both the Government and the Opposition in Alberta are now advocating the adoption of Saskatchewan's policy to secure the speeding-up of rural telephone construction in that province.

OLD COUNTRY COMMENT

In an article written by R. W. Weightman, member of the Society of Telegraph Engineers, which appeared in the *Journal of the Institution of Electrical Engineers*, London, England, he says:

"The regulations of the Saskatchewan Provincial Government under which these telephone companies are formed are typical. The lines are built to a standard laid down in very complete specifications and instructions prepared by the Government Department of Telephones, and no rural line is allowed connection with a Government exchange or long distance line unless it has been passed and accepted as satisfactory by an officer of the Department. Poles for the construction of the lines can be obtained from the Government at cost price. The regulations are most comprehensive. They include full directions as to the procedure necessary for the formation of a company, and they are encouraging to a high degree to farmers to club together and provide their own communications at the lowest possible cost. The specifications are accompanied by drawings and they, also, are so comprehensive that but little difficulty is experienced by the farmers in constructing their own lines themselves."

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

ROADS, BRIDGES, FERRIES, DRAINS, SURVEYS, ETC.

One of the most difficult problems which the people of the Province have to deal with is that relating to the construction and maintenance of roads and bridges. It is unnecessary to dwell upon the many advantages of good roads. Bad roads always involve a loss of time and money and give rise to endless trouble and inconvenience.

Realising the necessity for rendering every assistance in its power towards improving the roads of Saskatchewan, the Liberal Government upon its accession to office in 1905 adopted an energetic policy of expenditure for this purpose. During the years from 1906 to 1911 (inclusive) comparatively large sums were expended out of the general revenues of the Province in carrying on this work with very helpful results.

In 1912, owing to the building of new railways, the springing up of new marketing centres and the rapid spread of population throughout the whole Province, the Government decided the time had arrived when the Province should endeavour to tackle the problems in a bigger way. As a result a policy of borrowing money for public improvements was agreed upon and the activities of the Highways branch of the Public Service were increased accordingly.

To give some idea of the volume of work undertaken and the expenditures made, it will only be necessary to refer the reader to the following figures taken from the Public Accounts:

EXPENDITURES FOR ROADS, BRIDGES, FERRIES, DAMS, SURVEYS, AND OTHER PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

From General Revenues:

1906-1911 (inclusive)	\$3,664,779.55
1912-1916 (inclusive)	2,566,384.84

Total	\$6,231,164.39
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From Capital Account (Borrowed money):

1906-1911 (inclusive)	\$1,039,492.90
1912-1916 (inclusive)	5,496,268.76

Total	\$6,535,756.66
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Total Expenditures:

1906 to 1916 (inclusive)	\$12,766,921.05
Average Expenditure per annum	1,160,629.18

A good deal of criticism has from time to time been levelled against the Government in connection with the carrying out of its road policy. This was to be expected. Many people have an idea they know best where expenditures should be made, and they are often certain they could secure better value for the money spent. The same criticism is heard on every hand regarding municipal work.

In connection with this whole matter it must be remembered that it was not till after 1908 that rural municipal government was provided for. Other people came from all parts of the world. Many

of them had little knowledge of municipal organisation. In the 'great majority of cases our municipal councillors were inexperienced and they were not provided with the necessary equipment to carry on road work successfully. Under these circumstances the Government was compelled to adopt a policy of centralisation. The work of assisting in building roads and bridges had to be directed and managed from Regina. When one considers the vast field in which the work had to be carried on, the thousands upon thousands of demands made for roads and other improvements and the hundreds, yes thousands, of people who were employed in the work it is not to be wondered if mistakes were sometimes made or if expenditures were incurred that did not please everybody.

Then again, the fact must not be lost sight of that our road problem is a huge affair. People are inclined to look only to their immediate neighbourhood. They forget that there are some five or six hundred marketing centres in the Province and that thousands of people are interested in the improvement of the roads running from each of these centres in every direction. It has been estimated that it will require an expenditure of at least fifty million dollars and probably seventy-five millions to place our main road system throughout the Province in a reasonable condition for travel.

Since the outbreak of the war the Government, for reasons which must be apparent to all, deemed it advisable to curtail expenditures. It is for this reason that during the years 1915, 1916 and 1917 the appropriations made for road building have been very considerably reduced. When peace is declared and conditions again become normal it will be the duty of the Government to again take up and prosecute a vigorous policy of road assistance in every part of the Province.

MUNICIPAL CONTROL OF EXPENDITURES

At the last session of the Legislature an important decision was reached with respect to future road expenditures. Owing to the development of our municipal institutions it is believed the time has now arrived when the Government should arrange for the expenditure of its road moneys through local councils. This policy was approved by the great Liberal Convention held at Moose Jaw, and is now a plank of the Liberal platform. From now on the constant aim of the Martin Government will be to hand over to municipal control the expenditure of Provincial appropriations for road work, especially in the case of all those municipalities that are sufficiently organised and equipped to carry on the work efficiently and economically.

BRIDGES

In addition to road work the Government has since 1905 carried out a policy of bridging rivers and other bodies of water. The volumes of work done in the whole Province in this connection have been very large and the results have been on the whole very satisfactory indeed to the settlers concerned. It is intended to continue this policy in the future, the Government retaining control, as it is felt our rural municipalities should not be called upon to undertake this responsibility.

At the present time many fairly large steel bridges are required in various parts of the Province. It is estimated that an immediate expenditure of at least a half million dollars should be made for this purpose. There is no doubt that many, if not all, of these bridges are urgently needed. It is felt, however, that until the war is over the Government would not be justified in borrowing this large sum.

All that can be done at present is to endeavour to deal with some of the most pressing cases and this will be done providing the necessary steel can be secured. During the past year or so owing to war conditions a great deal of difficulty has been experienced in obtaining steel for the bridges the Government desired to build.

The following figures will give an idea of the activities of the Government in the past in providing permanent steel bridges:

Total cost of bridges erected across the North and South branches of the Saskatchewan River...	\$998,000.00
Total cost of other concrete and steel bridges erected across other streams.....	2,000,000.00
Total expenditure for permanent bridges	<u>\$2,998,000.00</u>

OTHER USEFUL PUBLIC SERVICES

In addition to aiding in road construction and providing timber and steel bridges, the Highways Department has had to attend to many other useful public services. These include ferry accommodation upon which the Government expends some \$90,000 annually, the surveying of roads for municipalities, all of which is done without cost to the councils concerned, the construction of drains under The Drainage Act, the building of fireguards, the construction of dams and reservoirs for water supply, the inspection and approval of new townsites, etc., etc.

The Government some time ago set on foot road drag competitions for the purpose of securing good roads throughout the Province, and awarded large sums as prizes. By these competitions a cheap and efficient way of maintaining our earth roads has become widely known. The results obtained bear witness that the scheme has proved very successful.

The above brief outline indicates in a broad way the general policy followed by the Government in rendering assistance for public improvements. It may safely be asserted that in no province in Canada has such generous aid been given for a similar purpose. While the results secured are on the whole highly satisfactory, the Government recognises that the problem of providing good roads is still an urgent necessity in many communities. It is for this reason, it believes, that the most liberal policy of assistance should be continued in the future.

PUBLIC HEALTH LEGISLATION

Saskatchewan is one of the healthiest provinces in the Dominion of Canada today. This enviable reputation has been earned as the result of the constant and earnest consideration devoted by the Government to the health of our people and the prevention of disease.

The Public Health laws of Saskatchewan embody model regulations covering all health matters. These regulations are administered by the Public Health Bureau, which in common with all other departments of the Public Service, has kept pace with the rapid development of our Province. The staff of competent Public Health officers has been constantly increased, and the most modern sanitary and health laws and practice guide these officials in their work.

The administrative and executive work of the Public Health Bureau is recognised as being in the van with respect of public health measures and service. Mr. White, assistant to the chairman of the Conservation Commission, said a few years ago before a committee of the House of Commons, that he considered the public health work of Saskatchewan among the most advanced of any province of Canada.

The public health laws of Saskatchewan contain the regulations to be made and issued by the Commissioner, and the following list gives some idea of the many subjects covered by specific regulations:

Infectious diseases.	Plumbing.
Water and sewage.	Trachoma.
Hotels and restaurants.	Hospitals.
Common lodging houses.	Dairies.
Embalmers and undertakers.	Camps.
Nuisances.	Cemeteries.
Health districts.	Vaccine and serums.
Tenement houses.	

Many of our laws, particularly those relating to water and sewerage works, have been found so satisfactory that the legislation has been copied by practically all the other provinces.

Saskatchewan was the first province in Canada to recognise the value of a competent engineering staff in connection with public health matters. Hence we find that in proportion to its population Saskatchewan today has a larger number of protected and filtered sources of water supply, and a larger number of sewage disposal works, than any other province.

HOSPITALS, NURSES, ETC.

Public hospitals, medical services and nursing are topics of particular interest in new countries, as they are less liable to be found in the sparsely populated districts than in the older communities. These questions have been given most careful consideration by the Government and a solution of them appears to have been found in the application of co-operative principles in supplying these very essential facilities.

To meet the necessities of the people, particularly the rural dwellers, The Hospital Act passed in 1916, and amended last session, made it possible for municipalities to co-operate with urban municipalities in establishing union hospitals which will fill a long felt want and solve a problem which has been growing more and more acute as time went on. The Government has made it possible for municipalities to have in their midst a hospital ample and comfortable for the needs of the community.

The Rural Municipality Act has for several years empowered municipalities to grant aid for the erection and maintenance of hospitals, and this assistance was supplemented by substantial grants made by the Government to public hospitals.

The Commissioner and officials of the Health Bureau are continuing to devote much earnest attention to this very important hospital question; in fact, one official has been engaged whose whole time is devoted to giving information, at public meetings and by correspondence, to those contemplating the establishment of hospitals under the Union Municipal plan. These hospitals will be of inestimable value in all cases of acute illness, of accidents, and in particular will provide a safe, comfortable place where expectant mothers may have that care and attention at the time of childbirth which they should receive. Mr. William Walker, secretary treasurer of the Wilton Rural Municipality, one of the contributing municipalities to the Lloydminster hospital, said recently:

"Before the inauguration of the present system only a small percentage of maternity cases passed through the hospital, the women cheerfully taking a chance on their lives for the sake of helping the farm along. During the past five months, nineteen women from this municipality have been in the hospital. We are saving the lives of our women for the small cost of three-quarters of a cent per acre."

BONUSING PHYSICIANS AND NURSES

It was feared that after the crop failure in 1914 it would be necessary for some of the medical doctors in the drought-affected area to leave their posts temporarily in order to earn a livelihood and purchase the necessary medical supplies. Consequently, to prevent hardship on residents in Southwestern Saskatchewan the Government for a time loaned money to medical men who were affected by the crop failure.

Since that time, however, the need for medical doctors and nurses has been felt in other communities, and rural municipalities are now empowered to engage municipal nurses or grant aid for securing the services of nurses. They may also legally make grants to medical practitioners to induce them to take up medical practice in rural municipalities where doctors are not located. Such assistance is in the nature of a supplemental allowance, and may be granted so long as the doctor's income does not exceed \$1,500 per annum.

BACTERIOLOGICAL AND PATHOLOGICAL LABORATORY

The Laboratory organised by the Government is one of the best equipped laboratories in Canada and has performed very useful services for the province through its valuable research work and chemical, bacteriological and pathological analyses and examinations. Every year many samples of water, milk and cream, coal, clays, straws, minerals, soils and other substances are submitted for analysis.

Medical men are assisted in diagnosing diseases. Diphtheria cultures, tuberculous sputa and other pathological specimens are submitted in large numbers by physicians throughout the province for examination, and great public benefit results from these tests made in the laboratory.

These services are free in medical cases and also for all analytical work, except that done for urban or rural municipalities or for persons who desire analyses for commercial purposes. For such work a very moderate scale of fees is charged, but a farmer concerned with the problem of providing or improving his water supply finds the laboratory at this service free of charge.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS AND BUILDINGS

The public buildings erected by the Saskatchewan Government in various parts of our Province are a credit to the country. Every building has been well planned, well constructed, and is handsome in appearance. The following statement shows that these buildings, costing \$8,526,310, have been well distributed to meet the requirements of the different communities throughout the Province. Specifications for their construction included the fair wage schedule, and also stipulated that as far as possible none but Canadian workmen should be employed. As regards the material used preference was given to Canadian goods, all things being equal.

Date	Building	Cost of Site	Cost of Buildings	Furnishings and Equipment	Total
1915	Regina New Jail	\$95,932.91	\$395,024.33	\$10,331.01	\$501,288.25
	Regina New Jail, McIntyre site	38,058.55			38,058.55
1909	Prince Albert Jail, new site	46,339.26		9,096.01	55,435.27
	Moosomin Jail	6,012.00	137,585.88	29,578.25	173,176.13
	Sanatorium (Ft. Qu'Appelle)	104,125.81			104,125.81
1915	University (Saskatoon)		1,648,842.95		1,648,842.95
1916	Normal School, Regina		292,812.73	17,934.01	310,746.84
1911	Hospital, Battleford	56,751.23	1,528,478.77	124,445.11	1,709,675.11
1909	Legislative and Department Buildings	98,108.24	2,345,182.50	397,370.56	2,840,661.20
1909	Battleford Land Titles Office	2,509.00	36,084.73	4,696.13	43,289.86
1908	Regina Land Titles Office	10,000.00	126,753.11	20,364.78	157,117.89
1909	Moose Jaw Court House	7,000.00	67,794.94	3,020.09	77,815.05
1909	Saskatoon Court House	11,000.00	55,136.96	1,821.05	67,958.01
1909	Battleford Court House		51,898.57	1,316.46	53,215.03
1909	Arcola Court House	750.00	35,948.27	2,852.80	39,551.07
1909	Yorkton Court House	6,780.00	1,307.72	267.75	8,335.47
	Moosomin Court House		1,950.35		1,950.35
	Regina Court House		3,669.72	3,404.30	7,073.02
1916	Regina Court House, new site	120,000.00			120,000.00
	Swift Current Land Titles Office	9,480.00	125,354.63	5,493.35	140,328.01
	Estevan	6,210.00		1,100.64	7,310.64
1916	Kerrobert			1,251.29	1,251.29
	Humboldt	8,212.24	71,426.75	1,148.05	90,787.04
	Kindersley Court House			781.45	781.45
	Melville Court House	4,240.00		1,421.09	7,878.74
	Scott	13,972.50	2,217.65	1,022.90	1,022.90
	Weyburn	4,300.00	767.50	2,323.07	17,063.07
	Wynyard			883.61	5,183.61
	Prince Albert		944.86		944.86
1909	Wolsley Detention Home		5,111.99		5,111.99
1910	Yorkton Land Titles Office	2,500.00	46,438.00	4,360.98	53,299.04
	Saskatoon Land Titles Office	6,250.00	55,928.51	9,669.01	71,848.32
	Moosomin Land Titles Office	1,000.00	47,548.46	5,085.20	53,643.66
1913	Moose Jaw Land Titles Office	15,500.00	40,486.49	9,767.70	65,754.19
	Arcola Land Titles Office	800.00	36,381.29	7,202.85	44,384.14
1909	Old Government House		6,855.45		6,855.45
	Warehouse		21,507.57		21,507.57
	New Government House		9,038.24		9,038.24

LEGISLATIVE AND EDUCATIONAL BUILDINGS

To give anything like a full description of our principal public buildings, particularly the Parliament Buildings and the University Buildings, would require far more space than can be given in this booklet. Suffice it to say that in no instance in Canadian history have any public buildings been arranged with such extreme care, prudence, and forethought, as have been exercised by the Government in the case of these buildings. All who have inspected them will agree that they will stand for generations to the credit of the Government, and will be the pride and boast of our people. They are truly magnificent structures which will appeal to the patriotism and the citizenship of every son and daughter of Saskatchewan for many long years to come.

A special word must be said with regard to our University buildings which have been greatly praised beyond the boundaries of the Province. To the Liberal party belongs the honour of establishing a University unique in Canadian history. Our children are offered an education which even kings in by-gone days could not buy with all their wealth, or command with all their power. The work of the University in the direction of agriculture—the greatest and most permanent interest of our people—has already been very effective. The future also is full of promise. If Guelph University doubled the productivity of the lands near it in a score of years, and if the agricultural colleges of the United States increased from two to three fold the earning power of their students who returned to the farms, the University and Agricultural College of Saskatchewan, unhampered by creed or class, unimpeded by lack of funds and undistracted by party strife, should bring still greater benefits to Saskatchewan.

Our University buildings have not been built at an excessive cost. The Agricultural College of Mahitoba cost over \$4,000,000, and requires at least \$200,000 a year for maintenance. The University of Alberta, with slight provision for agriculture, expended fully \$2,000,000 and requires not far short of \$200,000 each year for upkeep. Saskatchewan's University and Agricultural College together, with buildings as attractive, as useful, and nearly as commodious, cost a little over \$1,750,000 for land, buildings and equipment, and about \$200,000 for maintenance. For the same or less money than was spent by her sister provinces, Saskatchewan secures a university as good, and an agricultural college, which are the pride of the Province and the admiration of our neighbours.

In addition to the University buildings, in eight short years a score or more of collegiates and high schools have sprung into existence, nearly all housed in excellent buildings, some with staffs of fully twenty teachers, and over 600 students in attendance. Then there are our Normal Schools of admirable structure, to which over 1,000 have gone each year for teachers' training. In all these schools every boy and girl is given the opportunity of an education of the highest kind, practically free of cost.

For the rest of the buildings the statement speaks for itself. If it indicates anything at all, it proves that the people have had at the head of the Government men of wide vision, shrewd, safe and business-like, with large and generous views of the future of Saskatchewan, and have planned and provided accordingly.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

When the Government decided to banish the bar, persistent rumours were afloat that the hotels would be closed immediately they were deprived of the privilege to sell intoxicating liquor. The Government and the people were thus confronted with a very serious situation. The Government acted with commendable promptitude. In order to maintain satisfactory accommodation for the convenience and comfort of the people, particularly the travelling public, the Hotel Act was passed in 1918, which embodied a scheme, backed by generous Government grants, to solve the question of public accommodation. It was a measure of social reform, and popular public opinion has assigned it first rank in the social legislation of any province.

The Government in formulating the provisions of the Hotel Act were also influenced by a desire to have in each town and village a real social centre from which will radiate influences which make for the best in community life. In this centre the residents of the towns, villages and rural districts, as well as transient travellers, have provided for them the accommodation necessary in all cases, which reflect credit on the locality.

The results which have accrued from the Government's handling of this very important problem bear eloquent testimony to the progressive, enlightened, and courageous statesmanship of the Members comprising our Cabinet, particularly Hon. J. A. Calder, who fathered the legislation. Commercial travellers and others who can fairly and properly appreciate what has been done have unanimously expressed the view that the public accommodation now provided throughout the Province is satisfactory.

Those who predicted a wholesale closing of hotels with the passing of the bar have proved false prophets. As a matter of fact, several new hotels have been opened since the enactment of the Hotel Act, and there are in the Province today almost as many hotels and places of public accommodation as there were before the bar was banished.

For the purpose of assisting municipal councils to maintain places of public accommodation, including rest and reading rooms in towns and villages having a population of less than 1,000, grants have been made by the Government at 225 points, amounting to the sum of \$100,416.

In addition, the Hotel Act made it possible for municipal councils to give generous assistance to maintain places of public accommodation within their respective municipalities. In some cases all taxes other than school taxes paid by the licensees of public hotels have been refunded. In other cases the assessments on hotel properties have been reduced, and in addition to the foregoing concessions, cash grants have also been made by a number of council boards.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Not long after its accession to office the Government decided to establish a Department devoted exclusively to municipal interests and activities. For this purpose the Department of Municipal Affairs was created, which by dint of efficient administration, study, and research has placed Saskatchewan's municipal institutions in the very forefront. They blazed a trail which opened up new and hitherto undreamt of possibilities as regards municipal organisation.

Our Municipal Department was the second of its kind in Canada, Manitoba having alone possessed one previously; Alberta and British Columbia have since followed our footsteps; Nova Scotia only last summer took steps to organise a similar department, while Ontario has been promised one by the government of that province, and many prominent municipal officials throughout the Province of Quebec have asked for the establishment of a municipal department similar to our own.

Not very long ago representatives from other provinces of Canada, as well as from the United States and Europe, visited our Department of Municipal Affairs to investigate our municipal methods and laws. In addition a highly cultured native of India, who was making a study of municipal government in various parts of the globe, favoured the department with a visit. The fact that these people were directed to Saskatchewan for advice and assistance on municipal matters speaks volumes for the renown of our municipal system, and the efficiency of the officials who administer our municipal laws.

In the incorporation of municipal institutions, either urban or rural, the department gives all assistance and guidance possible. In addition, inspectors are sent out to give instruction and assistance generally to local municipal officials.

The Department of Municipal Affairs is the centre to which is submitted proposed improvements relative to municipal law and practice. Our local municipal officials have associations which are both live and earnest. They meet annually when the delegates discuss and deal with municipal law and customs. These delegates keep in close touch with the department and readily mention any suggestions they have to offer, not one of which is overlooked. It is recognised by the department that the practical municipal man, working in his own community, has an opportunity to form ideas and come to wise and deliberate conclusions on municipal matters. When he voices these every attention is given to them, with the result that Saskatchewan's present municipal laws are very much the crystallisation of mature ideas worked out by local officials.

The following statement indicates the growth of Saskatchewan's municipal institutions:

	1905	1917
Cities	3	7
Towns	16	73
Villages	63	811
Rural Municipalities	2	298

There are in the Province certain sparsely settled areas not yet ready for municipal organisation. These are called local improvement districts. The department directly assesses these outlying areas, and the revenues are spent in meeting the cost of roads, bridges, fireguards and other improvements.

THE SUPPLEMENTARY REVENUE TAX

The supplementary revenue rate is in reality an educational tax. It causes those who hold lands which are not in any school district, to assist by way of taxes in the upkeep of the educational institutions of the Province. The supplementary revenue rate is nearly all returned to the rural schools of the Province. Four-fifths of the amount goes to them, while the balance assists high schools, the Agricultural College and the University. Compared with the value of the property on which it is levied, the tax is light, being only one cent per acre, but in respect of those holding leases one-half cent per acre, regardless of valuation.

THE SURTAX

The surtax or "speculators' tax" as it is sometimes called, is a flat rate of six and one-quarter cents per acre on land which is not cultivated, but which is simply being held, often by nonresidents, until the efforts of the settlers in the community have increased the price of the land, when it may be sold at an advanced figure. The purpose of the surtax is to increase settlement and production from the soil, for no man who cultivates his land will have a cent of surtax to pay. No part of the surtax goes into the provincial treasury. It is collected and spent entirely by the local municipal councils.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD

Some time ago the necessity for the creation of an independent body, to assist municipal institutions with their financial problems impressed itself upon the Government. After careful investigation and the most painstaking consideration of the objects in view it was decided to appoint a Board, known as the Local Government Board, entirely independent and removed from political and outside influences. In this connection Saskatchewan again figured prominently as the pioneer in progressive legislation. Our Local Government Board was the first body of its kind in Canada. Alberta has since followed with a Board having similar objects, known as the Public Utilities Commission. The fact that our municipalities generally, and bond houses without exception, are unsparing in their expressions of satisfaction with the work of the Board, is a source of gratification, and conclusive evidence that the Local Government Board has succeeded in a marked degree in accomplishing the objects for which it was created.

Associated with the Board in an advisory capacity, are one representative each, appointed by the Union of Rural Municipalities and the Union of Urban Municipalities of Saskatchewan, who are consulted from time to time on matters of policy.

Splendid results which have been achieved by the Board may be summarised as follows:

1. A marked betterment in prices received by our municipalities for debentures.
2. The gradual disappearance of the tendency to mortgage the future of municipalities for purposes which may be classed as purely speculative.
3. The strict regulation of borrowing to accord with municipal requirements.
4. The growing disposition on the part of local authorities to forego utilities until the ability to pay for them without hardship to the present or future ratepayers can be clearly demonstrated.
5. The principle now followed that actual commercial and industrial conditions, population, and general present and future prospects must be regarded as the barometer of municipal credit, rather than the size of the assessment roll, is discouraging the practice of unduly inflating the assessment for the purpose of increasing borrowing powers, which are on the face purely artificial.

The growing confidence of the public in the Board is evidenced by favourable comments on the part of municipal officials and ratepayers generally.

To the work originally assigned to the Local Government Board there has been added from time to time other functions, including the following:

The administration of The Sales of Shares Act, enacted to protect investors against the operation of promoters of companies sometimes deliberately planned for the exploitation of the public, and sometimes, while originating in good faith, so ill-conceived and imperfectly organised as to ensure nothing but loss to the purchasers of their stock.

The administration of The Subdivision Act which has for its object the return to cultivation of lands which have been subdivided in the past for the purpose of real estate speculation.

The supervision of Sinking Funds. The attention of the Board to this matter is producing satisfactory results as is evidenced by the improvement in their condition. These improved conditions have met with prompt recognition by bond holders, and have served to inspire a greater degree of confidence in their investments, for the security of which the sinking funds are accumulated.

Appeals from the decision of Courts of Revision are heard by the Local Government Board in respect of our cities and certain towns. The fact that many towns have of their own volition applied to be brought under this arrangement is evidence of the satisfaction which the Board has given in this respect.

MARKETING MUNICIPAL SECURITIES

When the war broke out in 1914 the marketing of municipal securities was attended with difficulties, often resulting in serious loss to the local authorities. These conditions were promptly met by the Local Government Board who refused to affix its seal to debentures until it could be shown that the prices realised were just and reasonable, having due regard to all the circumstances. Their action in this direction proved satisfactory to our local authorities who were thus assisted in obtaining the best price possible for their securities. Notwithstanding this assistance by the Board, it was felt that the local authorities did not always realise the prices to which they were entitled for their debentures, so in order to further assist them a system of sales was inaugurated by the Board, who assumed the marketing of any debentures entrusted to them for sale. By this commendable method a great many issues, principally in connection with Rural School and Rural Telephone Companies, have been disposed of by competitive bids, at prices invariably better than those obtained by local authorities managing their own sales. This action on the part of the Board has operated to the great advantage of the sellers of such bonds. To illustrate: At a sale by the Board in March of this year, debentures of a village school district amounting to \$5,000, repayable in 20 years with interest at 7 per cent. sold at 108.25; at the same sale debentures of a rural school district amounting to \$1,500, repayable in ten years with interest at 7 per cent., sold at 104.66. This is equivalent in the first instance to 116.824 for 8 per cent., and in the last instance to 109.50 at 8 per cent. Immediately prior to the creation of the Board such debentures were selling at less than 98 for 8 per cent. Taking the difference the village school district referred to received \$941 more, and the rural school district mentioned received \$172 more, than they would have realised under the old conditions prior to the creation of the Local Government Board.

INSURANCE MATTERS

FIRE PREVENTION

In their endeavour to reduce losses by fire, and at the same time to protect our citizens, the Government appointed a Fire Commissioner. His duty is to investigate any fires that may occur, and to be of every possible assistance to the people in protecting them against the chances of fire generally. An up-to-date Fire Prevention Act has been placed on the statute books which should be productive of good results.

Special attention is being given to the protection of the people and their property from prairie and forest fires.

Model fire-prevention by-laws for our towns and villages have been drafted. The Government some time ago instructed the Fire Commissioner to visit every city, town and village in the Province in order that there may be co-operation between the various councils and the Fire Commissioner's office in the vital matter of fire prevention.

INSURANCES

Realising that the people of Saskatchewan pay an exceedingly large sum of money each year for insurance, the Government decided in 1913 that citizens should be fully protected in their dealings with the various insurance companies, both stock and mutual, and as a result an Insurance Branch was established in that year. This Department supervises the operations of the insurance companies of the Province. Their dealings with the people are closely watched in order that proper protection may be given, and losses, should they occur, paid dollar for dollar.

Effective laws on insurance have been placed on the statute books which aim at safeguarding the people in such matters. Deposits for the protection of policy holders are required, and today there is in the vault of the Insurance Branch sufficient money to reinsure every policy of our Provincial licensees. Not one insured person in the Province has lost money through the failure or liquidation of any insurance company.

Today a large number of our citizens are taking advantage of the Insurance Branch to procure reliable information on insurance matters, also to secure without litigation the settlement of claims, the payment of which has been unduly delayed.

PUBLIC CONTRACTS, ETC.

THE TORY APPETITE FOR SCANDAL

The Conservative party have invited the people to grow despondent over the Government's business administration by alleging that grafting has been allowed to take place on public contracts, and that in other ways the public purse has not been protected as it should have been. Such are ever the too familiar voices of electioneering. Whilst the voices are familiar, the methods employed are different and on a very much lower plane, which is doubtless accounted for by the association of the Conservative party with the liquor interests which alliance is just now at its zenith. The ingenious misrepresentation of facts by the Opposition need not detain us. They are intended only to becloud the larger issues before the public, and should not make any appeal to those capable of straight thinking. The people

want to know the truth, and can be trusted to render a just verdict when the facts are fairly and correctly put before them. What then is the truth?

The allegations of the Opposition in the direction above indicated have been proved to be not only untrue, but entirely void of the slightest shadow of any support. Full and searching investigations which have been made into such charges have entirely disproved them. Vague to begin with, the charges were always found false in the end.

It is proposed in this article to deal with the following matters in which charges have been made, and give a summary of the facts in each case.

1. The purchase of the Swift Current telephone site.
2. The purchase of the Regina jail site.
3. The construction of the Weed Lake bridge.
4. The construction of the Kindersley dam.
5. The Moosomin jail contract.

The result of all the inquiries into the foregoing matters shed a strong light on the safe and businesslike methods of the Departments of the Government directly concerned in the various transactions, besides acquitting the members of the Government themselves of any suspicion of wrong-doing. Perhaps one of the chief results of the inquiries has been to show to the people on what illusions they have been fed by the Conservative party for the past year or two.

PURCHASE OF SWIFT CURRENT TELEPHONE SITE

The Opposition requested an inquiry into the purchase of the telephone site at Swift Current at the 1916 session of the Legislature. The Public Accounts Committee commenced the investigation the next day, and heard voluminous evidence.

Summed up the answers to the Opposition attack, as provided by the evidence, are two-fold:

1. The location of the site was an ideal one on which to erect the exchange.
2. The price paid for the site was a fair and reasonable one, in fact, according to the evidence, the land cost very much less than might have been expected during the boom times.

HISTORY OF INQUIRY

The property purchased for the site was Lots 19 and 20 (100 feet), Block 66, Swift Current. It was bought from Messrs. Robinson and Porter for \$30,000. The following figures given in evidence before the Committee indicate the prices at which various other properties were held in the vicinity of the site at the time it was purchased:

100 feet (Site bought by Government)	\$30,000
100 feet	56,000
100 feet	60,000
75 feet	75,000
60 feet	60,000
50 feet	80,000
50 feet	80,000
75 feet	45,000
50 feet	80,000
50 feet	18,000
50 feet	16,000
50 feet (Not suitable for site.)	12,000
25 feet	18,000

NECESSITY FOR SITE

The number of subscribers grew from 298 in February, 1912, to 460 in February of the following year, with the prospect of 300 more, which necessitated action towards securing a larger exchange to accommodate the growth of Swift Current. In addition, whereas there were no rural lines connecting with Swift Current in 1911 (when the Government purchased the telephone business) there were eight companies in existence when the site was purchased.

Both the Minister and Deputy Minister of the Department explained that the reason why an exchange had not been built on the site purchased was because of the change in trade conditions arising out of the war, etc., which later resulted in great loss of subscribers.

CONSIDERATIONS

The considerations which the department took into account when purchasing a telephone site were recited by the officials of the Department to the committee. The exchange must be sufficiently far removed from traffic and noise to permit of the work of the exchange being carried on without annoyance or interruption. In this particular instance it was the desire of the Department to extend the telephone system in the west part of the Province, and it was considered advisable to make Swift Current the centre of the western division. Therefore, it was necessary to purchase more property than was actually desired for the exchange in order that material might be stored for that division.

The site chosen admirably suited all the requirements of the case.

The usual method was followed in selecting the site, namely, by first of all sending out competent men to choose an area in which the exchange should be built; obtain prices within such area, from which a final selection would be made. As will be seen from the foregoing statement of figures the cheapest parcel of land was selected from the list of properties submitted, with the exception of a lot which was totally unsuitable.

DEAL CLOSED

The values of the different properties in the area selected for the site were obtained long before the Department was aware that the property ultimately chosen was owned by Messrs. Robinson and Porter. The fact that they were the owners of the property became known later. Neither of these gentlemen applied either directly or indirectly to the Department to sell their land for the purposes required, and it was bought simply and solely on its merits. Their property was chosen as the most suitable site, but after inquiries were set on foot and it came to the notice of the Deputy Minister that Messrs. Robinson and Porter owned the land, he thought it advisable, in view of the fact that they had at one time held important government positions, to place the matter before his Minister.

The Minister, Hon. Geo. Bell, testified that the sole reasons which prompted the purchase of the site were:

(1) That it was the best and most suitable site on which to erect a telephone exchange.

(2) That the purchase price was reasonable and lower than was being asked for land in the vicinity.

In view of these considerations, and despite the fact that there was possibility of criticism following the purchase of the property from Messrs. Robinson and Porter, Hon. Mr. Bell was satisfied, and all will agree, that it was in the public interest and to the public benefit to close the deal.

EXPERT EVIDENCE

Several competent and expert witnesses, who had been long resident in Swift Current, and were thoroughly familiar with local real estate values, testified that in their opinion the price paid by the Government for the telephone site was a fair and reasonable one, and that if they had been buying the property they would have expected to pay the same price as the Government did.

The City Assessor was also called, and by his evidence showed how that prices at Swift Current had jumped considerably and reached their high water mark at the time the Government purchased the site.

As was to be expected among real estate experts, there was some conflict of opinion as to land values, particularly as the period in question was during the boom time. The great mass of the evidence, however, proved that the price paid by the Government for the site, far from being high, was almost a snap.

CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT DEAL

During the inquiry it developed that the Dominion Government bought two lots in the city of Swift Current in March, 1914, on which to erect a Post Office, paying for the property, 100 feet, the sum of \$25,000. The purchase was made when the real estate boom had burst, after the purchase of the Telephone site by the Provincial Government, and when financial depression was acute. This property was only two blocks east of the site (same size) bought by the Saskatchewan Government for \$30,000, when the real estate boom was at its height.

The Federal Conservative Government bought the Post Office site above mentioned from W. E. Mountain, a prominent Conservative of Swift Current, and a member of the Swift Current Conservative Association Executive.

It was shown by official documents submitted to the committee that Mr. Mountain swore at the Land Titles office that the value of one of the lots (or half the property) he sold to the Dominion Government was \$6,000. In spite of this valuation he was paid \$25,000 by the Federal Conservative Government for the two lots, thus leaving him a profit of between \$12,000 and \$18,000. In his evidence Mr. Mountain said: "When I got from the (Dominion) Government double what I paid for it, I thought I was doing well."

OPPOSITION WITNESSES

One of the features of the investigation was the very unsatisfactory nature of the evidence given by Opposition witnesses.

It was necessary to call ex-Premier Scott to the stand to rebut the evidence of one Opposition witness, and it was only after the very definite and conclusive testimony given by Mr. Scott, which gave the lie direct to this particular witness' evidence, that he later voluntarily admitted that Mr. Scott was right and that his own previous evidence in a very important particular was all wrong.

In another case where an Opposition witness, Mr. Hessel, swore that he overheard a conversation in Deputy Minister McNab's office between Mr. McNab and Mr. Porter relating to the purchase of the site, the Committee adjourned to the offices to test the accuracy of his story. Part of the Committee waited in the room where Hessel sat when he said he overheard the conversation, and the other members of the Committee went into Mr. McNab's office. A test of voices was made, and although very loud tones of voice were employed in Mr.

McNab's office, not a sound could be heard in the next office where Hessel swore he sat and overheard the alleged conversation.

What value can be attached to the evidence of such men?

The following is copy of letter written by Mr. Hessel to Mr. Porter:

Swift Current, Sask., April 13, 1912.

S. P. Porter, Esq., Regina, Sask.

Dear Sir,—I wired Mr. Robinson that the offer you made on the corner in Swift Current was O.K.

I had some trouble to get the owner to come to the terms, as he had turned down an offer that was just as good, in fact there was a bigger cash payment than you are paying if you take it up.

I have an offer of twenty-five thousand on this property, but as I had agreed to hold this till I heard from you, I could give the man no promise.

I think this property will be worth \$30,000 before three months are past, and will sell for thirty-five in six months, and it will be cheap at that. So get busy and make up your minds to take this up, as I want the reselling of this if you buy.

Thanking you for your earliest attention to this matter, I remain,

Yours truly,

P. C. HESSEL.

P.S.—Would have let you know sooner, but owner was out of town.

THE REGINA JAIL SITE

In the investigation into the purchase of the Regina jail farm property, which was conducted by the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislature, it was shown that the gentleman commissioned by the Government to report as to the best property available for a jail site had recommended twelve pieces of land as those from which a selection should be made. Three of these were in Township 17, Range 19, West of the 2nd Meridian. The others were located in Township 18, Range 19, West of the 2nd. Section 34 in Seventeen and Sections 2, 3, 10 and 11 in Eighteen were specially recommended in the report as being well located and free from sloughs or ravines or breaks of any kind.

The prices put upon the several pieces of property by their respective owners ranged from \$150 an acre to \$500. Messrs. Porter and Robinson asked the lowest price for Section 16, Township 18, Range 19. The offer of their property was refused. The owner of Section 36, Township 17, Range 19, asked \$170 an acre, but the section was too far from the water line, and for this reason was not purchased.

The land which was chosen included the south half and the north-west quarter of 2-18-19, W. of the 2nd, and the southwest quarter of 11-18-19, W. of the 2nd. The owner of the property, Mr. Elliott, was a member of the Ontario Legislature (although this fact was not known at the time of the purchase) and the price paid him was \$185 per acre. Thus, with the exception of one other land offered, the property purchased was the cheapest which was both available and suitable for the purpose for which it was intended.

It may be noted further that while the price which the Government paid for the southwest quarter of Section 11 was only \$185 an acre, the price asked for the northwest quarter of the same section was no less than \$100 an acre. For 34-17-19, W. of the 2nd—another piece of property adjoining that which the Government purchased—the price per acre was \$300, while, as has already been indicated, the price asked in other cases ran \$225, \$250, \$350 and even \$500 an acre.

When all the circumstances are taken into account, most people will incline to the opinion that the Government made a pretty good bargain when it obtained suitable property at only \$185 an acre. It is not much wonder that Mr. Willoughby and the other Opposition men and their newspapers found it a difficult job to find a "scandal" in this transaction. They worked hard at the task, but even *they* could not make out a scandal where there was no scandal.

Opposition insinuations as to collusion between the Government and some of its friends in the transaction were shown to be without a shadow of foundation. These facts were established on oath, and after the investigation was over we had the spectacle of the Opposition leader smugly saying that there had been no suspicion of impropriety on the part of any of the Ministers, and that he and his followers had never so much as insinuated that the Government had been implicated at all; this after the Opposition men and papers had been busy with insinuations and innuendo against the Government and its friends for days.

The Opposition is following a contemptible course. They make charges for political effect, and then admit that they have no evidence to support them.

The report of the Committee of Inquiry to the Legislature was as follows:

"Your committee have examined all the evidence adduced to them, and as a result of their inquiry wish to report as follows:

"That the aforesaid land purchased by the Government is of "excellent quality, and advantageously located and suitable in every "respect for the purpose intended.

"That the price paid for the land was fair and reasonable.

"That the procedure followed by the Government in securing the "said land was a wise and reasonable one, and the one best calculated "to ensure the securing of the most suitable land at a low price.

"That absolutely no evidence was adduced of any fraud or im-"proper conduct in connection with the said purchase by the Govern-"ment or any member or official thereof, or any other person.

"That no person derived any pecuniary advantage from the said "purchase by the Government except the owner of the land who "received the purchase price."

MOOSOMIN JAIL CONTRACT

Mr. Bradshaw's Charge

Toward the close of last session, Mr. Bradshaw charged "That F. J. Robinson, then being Deputy Commissioner of Public Works, and in charge of the construction of public buildings and presently chairman of the Board of Highway Commissioners, did demand from Carter-Halls & Aldinger, contractors for the Moosomin jail, on or about the time of signing the contract, a contribution for campaign purposes, and thereupon did receive from such contractors the sum of five hundred dollars." Mr. Bradshaw produced not one tittle of evidence, but simply rose from his seat and read the charge. The allegation came as a complete surprise to the Government for, as stated by Hon. Mr. Calder, no member of the Government had any knowledge of the matter, and had never heard of it before. The thing happened, if at all, nine years ago, and Mr. Calder promised that the subject would be carefully looked into. Later Premier Martin brought down the facts with regard to the contract in question. Tenders were "received as follows:

Sask. Building Construction Co.	\$69,328.00
Smith Bros. & Wilson	66,700.50
Thos. Grayson	61,910.30
Hunter, Cantelon & Co.	81,559.00
Carter, Halls, Aldinger Co.	60,915.00

The contract was awarded to Carter, Halls, Aldinger Co., whose tender it will be noted was the lowest by \$4,000. The contract was signed on March 28rd, 1908, by W. H. Carter and Frank E. Halls for Carter, Halls, Aldinger Co., Ltd., and by Hon. Walter Scott for the Department of Public Works, his signature being witnessed by F. J. Robinson.

The regular course was followed of first of all calling for tenders, and, as stated, the contract was regularly let to the lowest tenderer.

Mr. Bradshaw did not charge that \$500 was given as an inducement to get the contract. He merely alleges that the money was paid about the time the contract was signed. As a matter of fact the contract was signed some time after it was awarded. No variation has since been made in the contract price, and in the absence of any evidence to the contrary the transaction must be considered to have been wise and prudent and above all suspicion.

As no evidence of any wrong-doing has been adduced; as the legal time limit for instituting proceedings against the contractors (if justifiable) has passed; and as Mr. Robinson is not now in the Government employ, no action is thought necessary in connection with the matter at this stage.

THE TORY WAY

There has been an attempt made to treat this allegation as analogous to Hon. Mr. Rogers' dealings with the same contractors in Winnipeg. The cases are not at all similar, but are as far removed as the two poles. The Galt Royal Commission found that Hon. Robert Rogers himself, after the contract had been signed and work started, gratuitously offered Mr. Carter the privilege of increasing his tender by \$8,700, after which the Conservative organiser called upon the contractors and collected \$7,500 of this amount for the Tory campaign fund. The contractors, therefore, benefited by \$1,200, while the province lost the entire sum of \$8,700, owing to Mr. Rogers' malpractice. A false Order in Council was put through to attempt to hide the transaction. In all the Carter Company contributed no less than \$22,500 to the Conservative campaign fund during the currency of their contracts.

KINDERSLEY DAM

It is necessary to set out the facts as to the construction of this dam, owing to the false and misleading statements which have been and are still being made regarding it by the Conservative party.

At the urgent request of the residents and farmers, the Government co-operated with the town of Kindersley in constructing a temporary wooden dam some distance east of the road allowance to conserve a body of water for the use of the residents, farmers, threshermen, and steam ploughing engines in the district. The body of water conserved later proved too small for general needs. Farming operations were retarded for lack of water. A scheme, therefore, for enlarging the reservoir area and building a high level permanent dam was reported upon by an engineer employed by the town. As the reservoir would require to be used by the farmers who badly needed

water for their stock, threshing, and ploughing operations, the Government was interested in the new scheme.

To meet the situation the Government later constructed on the road allowance a combination earth dam and wooden bridge of standard type. This, however, proved to be too low, and was inadequate to hold back the water. The dam scoured out the following spring and the water supply was lost, through causes which could not have been foreseen. It was apparent that a much more substantial and costly work would be required to successfully retain the large body of water which would be impounded by a dam at this place.

The Highway Commission contemplated constructing a concrete bridge on the road allowance to replace the ineffective wooden bridge, and it was decided to take advantage of the opportunity and incorporate the dam with this bridge, so that the work now not only consists of a dam, but a regular highway bridge, as well as serving the south main road into Kindersley.

It was not until late in the fall of 1912 that final arrangements were completed. Owing to the scarcity of labour and the fact that contractors generally were fully employed, only two contractors were available, the Parsons Construction and Engineering Company, and Laidlaw Bros. Both these contractors were invited to tender, and on receipt of their tenders it was found that their prices exceeded the Government engineer's estimates. Out of deference, however, to the representations made by the residents and farmers of the Kindersley district, that if the work was not started that year the community would lose the snow water of the coming spring, the Government decided to go ahead with the work, with the town of Kindersley contributing a sum of \$5,400.00 towards the cost, being three-twentieths of the final estimated figures.

The work consists of a high reinforced concrete bridge, suitable for engine traffic, over a concrete dam, with foundations carried deeply down to avoid frost action and scour. The earth banks and side slopes are securely protected by field rock rip-rap. A work less substantially built would not have stood.

The Parsons Construction Company secured the contract and carried out the work satisfactorily. The tender submitted by Laidlaw Bros. was somewhat lower, but the chairman of the Board of Highway Commissioners was not satisfied that they had the necessary equipment or were sufficiently experienced for such a large work at that season of the year.

The cost of the work increased to \$60,000.00, due to enlargement of the original amount of work specified. One item alone, the estimated amount of rip-rap rock, was found to be inadequate and was increased from \$700.00 to \$14,000.00, but the increase was justified by the fact that the safety of the dam depends absolutely upon this rock protection. Additional sheet piling was another important item that swelled the original estimated cost, but this was very necessary to insure the dam against under-scour. The wisdom of making these additional expenditures cannot be questioned.

In addition, the contractor had many difficulties to contend with, among them being the high cost of labour; the winter season intervening before completion of the work; and the discovery of a stratum of porous gravel below foundations. This stratum of gravel had to be specially dealt with, which materially added to the cost of the work: sheet piling had to be dug in (it could not be driven) and excavation well puddled with clay. A considerable amount of costly filling was necessary in the winter months to get the dam ready for the spring waters.

INFORMATIVE TO NTS IN

GENERAL POLICY

AND

AFTER A RECORD

FACTS

FIGURES AND

PROGRAMME

GLADLY, SHORTLY AND
INTERESTINGLY EXPLAINED